

**New!** From the Publishers of Family Chronicle

# Internet **GENEALOGY**

[www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com)

May 2006

## How to Use Google to Research Your **Genealogy**

---

### Case Study: **William Pennington**

**Researching an 18th-century North Carolina  
Colonist's Origins Using Online Resources**

### **Successful Searching Strategies!**

8 Experts Share Their Research Secrets

### **Linkpendium**

"The Definitive Genealogical Directory"

### **Where to Find Old Newspapers Online**



### **Ten Best Polish Genealogy Websites**



# Visit *MyAncestorsFound.com* for your Genealogy Needs!

PO Box 187 Morgan, Utah 84050 801-829-3295

## Affordable Research Consultations \$30.00

**Fill out the form on our website!**

Get suggestions from one of our  
60+ professionals on where  
to go next with your research.

Covering America, Australia,  
England, Canada, Denmark,  
Finland, France, Germany,  
Ireland, Latin America, Mexico,  
New Zealand, Norway, Poland,  
Scotland, Spain, Sweden,  
Wales and more!

Full research projects also available.



Order  
Today!

## Interview Books on CD-ROM

14 titles for \$19.95

*My Memories*

*Mother Remembers*

*Grandma Remembers*

*Life in Your Town*

*Your Memories*

*Father Remembers*

*Grandpa Remembers*

*Family Folklore, & more!*

Also includes: Guide to Interviewing,  
Timeline, Pedigree Chart, Family Group Sheets

## LDS Capture the Memories

Combination CD - \$9.95

especially for LDS Wards and Family History Centers

## Research Retreats at the LDS Family History Library



- \$299 for five days at the Library
- Daily research classes
- Professional one-on-one guidance

**Sign up for a Retreat in 2006!**

April 3-8 or Nov. 13-18

## Address+ Software for Genealogists

**Keep everything in one place:**



\$19.95

Addresses  
Calendar  
Research Log  
"To Do" List  
Correspondence  
Memberships

**PLUS over 7000 addresses for:**

Societies, Archives, Libraries  
U.S. County Record Offices  
& Vital Record Departments

# INSIDE Internet GENEALOGY

## WHAT'S COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE . . . . . 4

Features that we are working on for the June/July issue of *Internet Genealogy*

## WELCOME . . . . . 5

Publisher Halvor Moorshead welcomes you to *Internet Genealogy*

## NET NOTES . . . . . 7

100,000 Canadian Home Children, Shaw's Dublin City Directory for 1850, Boston Passenger Manifests 1848-91

## GENEALOGICAL GOGLING 9

Dan Lynch shows us how to get the best out of this important search engine

## THE IRISH CENSUS . . . . . 13

Marc Skulnick looks at the imminent arrival of the 1911 Irish census online

## ARCHIVEGRID . . . . . 14

Martha L. Brogan describes a new database that shows great promise

## CASE STUDY: WILLIAM PENNINGTON . 17

Rick Crume explores an 18th-century colonist's origins and his family ties

## LINKPENDIUM . . . . . 26

Lisa Alzo looks at a website with over three million genealogical links



7



43



49



17

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW . . . . . 29

Halvor Moorshead gives a crash course for those new to genealogy

## SUCCESSFUL SEARCHING STRATEGIES . . . . . 32

Marc Skulnick consults the experts on getting the most out of the 'net

## TOP PLACES TO START YOUR RESEARCH . . . . . 38

Janice Nickerson describes some essential websites

## TOP 10 WEBSITES FOR POLISH GENEALOGY . . . . . 43

Donna J. Pointkouski looks at several sites for those exploring Polish roots

## ANCESTRY'S CANADIAN RECORDS . . . . . 48

Elizabeth Lapointe takes a look at this recently launched service

## NEWSPAPERS ONLINE . 49

Marc Skulnick looks at the ever-increasing availability of online newspapers

## GENEALOGY FREEBIES . . . . . 53

Maureen Taylor points us to some great free resources on the Internet

## THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG . . . . . 55

Emily Croom describes a really useful tool for the genealogist

## A2A: ACCESS TO ARCHIVES . . . . . 59

Susan Bogan introduces an under-publicized database

## ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES . . . . . 61

Diane Richard tells us about one of the better state websites

## GOOGLE BOOK SEARCH . 62

Victoria King checks out the latest on one of Google's loftier projects

**What to Look Forward to in the June/July Issue**

# Internet GENEALOGY



## CIVIL WAR RECORDS ONLINE

If your relatives were among the 3.5 million soldiers who fought in the US Civil War, a fascinating chapter in your family history awaits your discovery. The war cost over five billion dollars, took more than 600,000 lives and left the Southern economy in shambles. It also produced an abundance of records (many now online), which reveal details of soldiers' military service, the names of their wives and children, and even physical traits, such as height, hair color and eye color. Rick Crume looks at online sources for both Union and Confederate soldiers.

### CASE STUDY

#### ROBERT CRONIN

It began with a portrait of a vacant-looking young man in uniform. "That's my grandfather's brother, Robert. He died in WWI", says



Patrick Wohler. The Cronin family came from County Cork in Ireland. That was almost all that was known of him. A research trip was out of the question and Wohler did not want to hire a professional: it was the Internet or nothing. Wohler devised a series of research questions and set out on his quest with the limitation that he did not make use of any subscription websites.

### PLUS

- Best English and Welsh Websites
- Setting up a Family Home Page
- More Places to Start
- Godfrey Memorial Library Update

Articles mentioned here are planned for the next issue. However, circumstances may affect the final content.



Are you aware of the MyTrees website? This features a billion records and access is far less expensive than other subscription sites. And you can pay for your access by helping to extract data. We review this website.

### SEARCHING ONLINE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

This issue includes an article on finding newspaper archives. In our next issue, Jeff Davis shows us how to search these pages efficiently: there is more to it than you may imagine!

[www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com)

# Internet GENEALOGY

- Subscribe online through our secure server: [www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com)
- Phone Toll-Free 1-888-326-2476. Please have your credit card ready.
- Mail to: See US and Canadian addresses as on page 5 of Internet Genealogy.

Please use this form:

I want to subscribe (there are six issues per year):

- 1 year at \$28 US/\$32 CDN  2 years at \$45 US/\$52 CDN  3 years at \$64 US/\$67 CDN

Payment by:  Check (enclosed) Charge my Credit Card:  Visa  MasterCard

PayPal is accepted on our website. Canadian orders add GST or HST as applicable. Quebec residents add 7.5% QST.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

GST# 139340186 RT

*Internet Genealogy* does not rent or sell subscriber names.

### Guarantee

There is no risk. If *Internet Genealogy* fails to meet your needs, or live up to the promises we have made, you are entitled to a refund on all unmailed copies for any reason or no reason. Any refund will be made promptly and cheerfully.

Halvor Moorshead  
Editor & Publisher

## Welcome!

I GUESS IT'S TRADITIONAL to welcome readers to a new magazine. I'm 63 years old and I have been publishing magazines since 1973. *Internet Genealogy* is the latest of several magazines that I have started: does it make me jaded or complacent? Not one tiny little bit.

I know of few things in life that give me as much pleasure as bringing a new magazine to fruition and *Internet Genealogy* has been especially rewarding. Although it's always a bit nerve-wracking waiting for sales figures on a new title, I already have the data on early sales and the figures are amazing: recently we received 600 subscriptions — for one day! The comments from readers about the preview of *Internet Genealogy* and from people who want to write for us have been very encouraging.

Have we got it absolutely right? Probably not, if I am totally honest. When we started *Family Chronicle* 10 years ago we thought of ourselves as a beginner's magazine — that was our preconceived notion. We quickly found out that we were appealing to an experienced readership and we rapidly adjusted the editorial to meet the reader's needs.

There is one thing we have learned already about *Internet Genealogy*. When we first mooted the idea for the magazine to our friends in the business, almost all of them thought it was a great idea, but some people questioned our ability to come up with fresh, new article ideas. One suggested it was like the menu at McDonald's: it's got wide appeal, it's tasty but the menu is limited. The article ideas, websites and little-known databases suggested to us for *Internet Genealogy* have been amazing. We don't have McDonald's, we have an amazing buffet prepared by the finest chefs (authors) to select from. One of my concerns is how to keep these excellent writers from getting annoyed for not having room for their material!

Since we produced the preview issue of *Internet Genealogy*, several important new sites have come online and we don't see an easing of this anytime soon.

These are exciting times for those of us who write and produce *Internet Genealogy* — we hope that this issue can instill you, the reader, with this same enthusiasm. If we can, we will have succeeded.



Halvor Moorshead  
Publisher and Editor  
*Internet Genealogy*  
[publisher@moorshead.com](mailto:publisher@moorshead.com)

### Please Help Us With Feedback

We are anxious to know what people think about *Internet Genealogy*. We need your feedback to correct any weaknesses and/or to improve any strengths. We have set up an online reader survey using the Zoomerang website. There is a link to this survey on our website at:

[www.internet-genealogy.com/survey.htm](http://www.internet-genealogy.com/survey.htm)

We will ask you about 12 questions. Your answers are totally confidential — we will not know who takes part in this, so please, do not ask for responses when completing this survey: we cannot help you. We also welcome more specific feedback. Please send your comments to [publisher@moorshead.com](mailto:publisher@moorshead.com). We promise we will read every one of your comments.

# Internet GENEALOGY

APRIL/MAY 2006

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR:

**Halvor Moorshead**

[publisher@moorshead.com](mailto:publisher@moorshead.com)

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS:

**Marc Skulnick**

[marc@moorshead.com](mailto:marc@moorshead.com)

**Victoria King**

[victoria@moorshead.com](mailto:victoria@moorshead.com)

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

**Ed Zapletal**

[edward@moorshead.com](mailto:edward@moorshead.com)

CIRCULATION MANAGER:

**Rick Cree**

[rick@moorshead.com](mailto:rick@moorshead.com)

ADVERTISING SERVICES:

**Jeannette Cox**

[jeannette@moorshead.com](mailto:jeannette@moorshead.com)

Published by Moorshead Magazines Ltd.

505 Consumers Road, Suite 500,  
Toronto, ON, M2J 4V8 Canada

(416) 491-3699 Fax (416) 491-3996

Moorshead Magazines also publish  
*Family Chronicle* and *History Magazine*.

POSTAL INFORMATION — CANADA

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40062922.  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

*Internet Genealogy*, Circulation Dept.,  
505 Consumers Road, Suite 500, Toronto,  
Ontario, M2J 4V8 Canada.

E-mail: [general@internet-genealogy.com](mailto:general@internet-genealogy.com)

POSTAL INFORMATION — UNITED STATES

Postmaster send address corrections to: *Internet Genealogy*, PO Box 194, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.  
E-mail: [general@internet-genealogy.com](mailto:general@internet-genealogy.com)

ISSN 1718-0414

© 2006 Moorshead Magazines Ltd.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

*Internet Genealogy* is published six times a year  
(Apr/May, Jun/Jul, Aug/Sep, Oct/Nov,  
Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar).

#### Subscription rate for US (US funds):

1 year (6 issues) \$28,

2 years (12 issues) \$45, 3 years (18 issues) \$64.

#### Subscription rate for Canada (Cdn funds):

1 year (6 issues) \$32,

2 years (12 issues) \$52, 3 years (18 issues) \$67.

Please add GST/HST (GST# 139340186 RT).

Quebec residents add 7.5% QST.

We welcome the submission of articles for publication. Please address e-mail proposals to [publisher@internet-genealogy.com](mailto:publisher@internet-genealogy.com). We will always contact people who submit articles but the review process may take several weeks. Authors' notes are available at [www.internet-genealogy.com/author\\_notes.htm](http://www.internet-genealogy.com/author_notes.htm)

#### Toll-Free Subscription Line:

**1-888-326-2476**

Printed in Canada

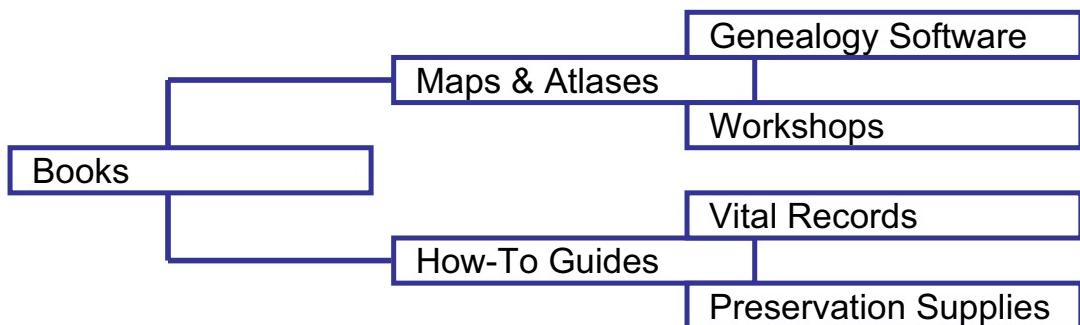
[www.internet-genealogy.com](http://www.internet-genealogy.com)

IG1



# Tracing Your Canadian Roots?

Choose from thousands of hard-to-find genealogy how-to books, local and general history books, vital record transcriptions, census, detailed maps plus genealogical data & books on CD. Shop in person, by fax, by phone, by mail or visit our award winning web site: [www.GlobalGenealogy.com](http://www.GlobalGenealogy.com)



FREE CATALOG  
1-800-361-5168  
100 newest titles

**GLOBAL**  
*Everything For The Family Historian!* [www.GlobalGenealogy.com](http://www.GlobalGenealogy.com)

Global Genealogy & History Shoppe      43 Main St. S., Campbellville, Ontario, Canada L0P 1B0      OPEN 7 days/week

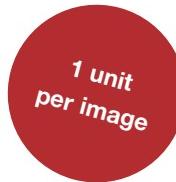


# www.familyrelatives.org

Start your family history by searching 300 million records online.  
1837-2003 Birth, Marriage, Death for England & Wales

## 6 GOOD REASONS TO CHOOSE [familyrelatives.org](http://www.familyrelatives.org)

- 1 We offer the largest fully searchable database for Births, Marriages and Deaths for England & Wales available online.
- 2 Our unique Marriage Match and Marriage Booster facilities reduce the cost and time in researching your family history.
- 3 Superior Greyscale images giving greater clarity and quality at the same cost of black and white images
- 4 Keep track of your research – all searches can be viewed for up to 90 days free of charge
- 5 Use the most sophisticated search facility for 150 million records, reducing the need to browse through dozens of images.
- 6 All at the most competitive cost starting from as low as 7.5 pence per image – and no membership or annual fees.



visit [www.familyrelatives.org](http://www.familyrelatives.org)

# Net Notes

## 100,000 CANADIAN HOME CHILDREN

[www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/02011003\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/02011003_e.html)

SHORTLY AFTER Canadian confederation in 1867, the British began to send young children to the new country. There was no name for this "export" of young people at the time but eventually they became known as the Home Children. This "export" continued until the 1930s when it died out due to the Depression. During the time it was operating, Canada received five and a half million immigrants of whom two percent (100,000) were Home Children. Seventy percent of them settled in Ontario.

Although the majority of the children were between 7 and 14, they ranged in age from six months to the late teens or even early 20s. Contrary to popular belief, only a minority (about 30 percent) were orphans. Many were from abusive homes, others were, what we today call, street children; others had been in trouble of some sort or another. A surprising number came from families that were unable to support all their children.

Once in Canada, many of the older boys were sent to farms as cheap labor while the older girls were often used as "mother's helpers". Younger children were generally adopted. This arrangement suited both Britain and Canada. Although it could be viewed as a form of "passing the

buck" on unwanted children, they were welcomed in Canada where there was always a greater demand than Britain could supply.

The arrival records of these Home Children have been transcribed, thanks to the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO). The society has scoured arrival lists looking for any mention of Home Children. The database itself is on the Library

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Archivianet online research tool. At the top, there are links for 'Home', 'Search', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', 'Help', 'What's New', and 'Feedback'. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder 'Search' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search bar is a link to 'Archivianet - On-line Research Tool'. The main content area features a heading 'Home Children (1869-1930)' with a small thumbnail image of a group of children. Below the heading is a paragraph of text about the history of Home Children and a note from the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa. At the bottom of the page, there is a sidebar with links to various sections of the website.

and Archives Canada website. The records themselves are somewhat sparse and, from the notations made by the transcribers, many would appear to have been difficult to read. The website only provides the index but it does give the microfilm reel number, the name of the ship and the departure and arrival dates: this information will make a lookup of the original fairly easy.



*The Empress of Ireland was one of the ships that carried British Home Children to Canada. This ship sank in a tragic accident in the St. Lawrence in May 1914 with a loss of life similar to that of the Titanic. As the ship was returning to the UK, no Home Children were involved.*

**Between 1869 and the 1930s, Canada received five and a half million immigrants of whom 100,000 were Home Children.**



The screenshot shows a detailed record for a child named Sanders, Samuel. The record includes the following information:

Age	17
Sex	M
Year of embark	1870
Microfilm reel	C-4029
Ship	SS Dufferin
Port of departure	Liverpool
Departure date	18 Oct 1870
Port of arrival	Quebec
Arrival date	28 Oct 1870
Party	Hall Green
Destination	Various destinations

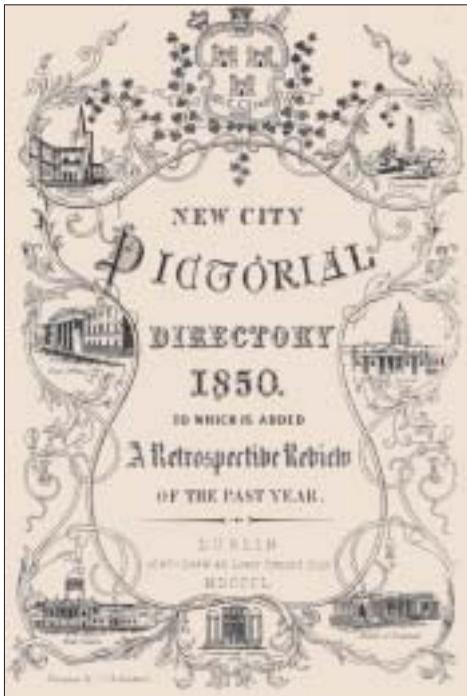
**SHAW'S DUBLIN CITY DIRECTORY FOR 1850**[www.loughman.dna.ie/dublin1850/](http://www.loughman.dna.ie/dublin1850/)

CITY DIRECTORIES are an under-appreciated resource.

Before the days of telephones, these directories, which covered counties or regions as well as cities, were the way that you found people. Some of these directories have been indexed and can be searched on the 'net. An interesting one that we found was *Shaw's Dublin City Directory for 1850*. This is particularly useful because Irish records from this time period are somewhat sparse.

Modern phone books may be very useful but the old directories have an edge in that they list people's occupation. This is very helpful when trying to distinguish between people of the same name.

Unlike many indexing projects, this Shaw's Directory is the work of a single person, Trish Loughman who told us, "I figured [that] I had this resource which, while interesting to me, could be



very useful for people whose families were no longer here [in Dublin]. In the first years after I put it online, I got many messages from people confirming old family tales of an ancestor who made hats or stuffed birds, or taught piano or whatever, and I loved getting them... in total it took me about two years to complete and type up".

Loughman adds, "It only lists householders and business owners, and the information seems to have been collected in 1849. This was probably done door to door and orally, as many names appear in a couple of formats, depending, I suppose, on whether the collector had heard the name before". She tells us that she is currently inputting *Porter's Directory of North County Dublin for 1912* as an additional

resource — parts of which are already online.

**BOSTON PASSENGER MANIFESTS**[www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/PassengerManifestSearchContents.html](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/PassengerManifestSearchContents.html)

THE ELLIS ISLAND passenger arrivals records database at [www.ellisisland.org](http://www.ellisisland.org) was one of the earliest major databases for genealogists to appear on the web. It features some 25 million passenger arrivals (not, as is often believed, only immigrants) and is a magnificent resource. But the earliest records are from 1892 and, although New York was the port of arrival for most immigrants, it was by no means the only one.

My great-grandfather became an American citizen in 1921, almost 50 years after arriving in the US. His application papers give his arrival as October 1872 at Boston, traveling from St. John, NB. On the application he says he has forgotten the name of the ship. I did spend several hours searching microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for his arrival but without any luck, as a lot of the film was almost unreadable.

So, when it was announced recently that Massachusetts Archives had started to index these arrivals, I was quite excited.

Massachusetts started to record the names of immigrants who arrived by ship in January 1848 and continued until July 1891, when federal records-keep-

ing programs superseded those of the state. Although immigrants arrived at numerous Massachusetts ports, the Archives only holds manifests for Boston. The Archives has an alphabetical card index covering the same years as the registers and providing the same information. This includes the name, age, sex and occupation of the immigrant; the country of birth, last residence and the passenger list number. Also included is the name of the ship and the date of its arrival in Boston. Over one million immigrants came through the Port of Boston during this time period.

Through the Archives Volunteer program, volunteers are now entering this information into a computerized database. Once a surname is entered into the database it goes through an editing process and when completed it will appear on the website. This database will be updated periodically.

Sadly, my great-grandfather's name does not yet appear in the database, but until it does I know that I can look him up manually on the card index if I am in Boston or can hire a researcher to do so.

*Boston Harbor in 1876*

# Genealogical Googling

SINCE YOU'RE HOLDING a copy of this magazine in your hands, I'd be willing to bet that you've used at least one — if not several — of the leading Internet search engines. In fact, if you're both a family history enthusiast and an Internet user, the odds are even greater that you need your daily fix of Google, Yahoo! or MSN more than your morning coffee. After all, compulsive searching is what we genealogists have been doing for decades — why should things be any different in this age of the Internet?

## WHAT IS AN INTERNET SEARCH ENGINE?

Before we dissect the Internet's leading search engine as a tool for genealogists, let's consider the fundamentals. At its most basic level, the job of a search engine (Google or any other) is simply to compare a string of characters provided by the user with those stored on one or more computers. Sounds simple, right? But what happens when the volume of content is scattered across the globe on billions of individual pages? How can one possibly find those few hidden pages that contain precisely the content they have been hoping for?

In essence, you're searching for a needle among billions of "haystacks" scattered worldwide. Google, in turn, becomes the high-powered magnet that helps you extract your needle with relative ease (sorry... no pun intended). We'll take things step-by-step; you may even want to sit by your computer as you read this article a second time. By spending less than 30 minutes practicing the tips outlined in this article, you'll be able to obtain great results faster than a census enumerator can misspell your ancestor's surname!

## KEYWORD BASICS

A single word entered into a search box is generally referred to as a "keyword". Multiple words are collectively referred to as a "keyword phrase" or simply as "keywords". This is an important concept for two reasons — first because keywords are what Google will use as a means to determine the relevancy of results returned in response to your query and second because these are

also the words that advertisers will buy to have their sponsored listing (advertisement) appear on the page

above or adjacent to your search results.

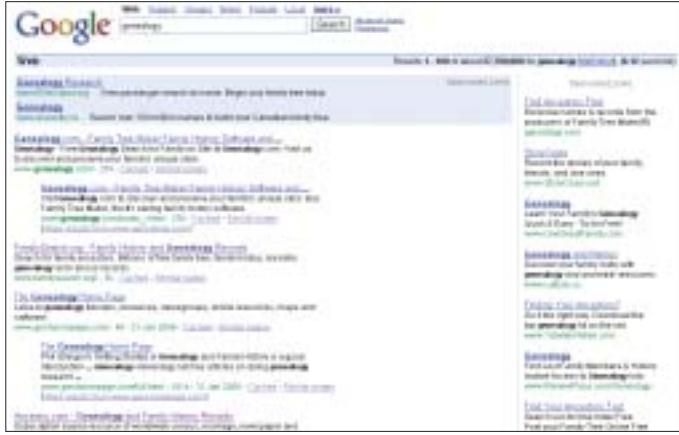
A single keyword is the most basic element of any search. All words are processed as lower case, so it makes no difference how you type them.

Genealogy, GENEALOGY, genealogy and gEnEaLoGy will all yield the same results on Google. Submission of this single-word search with no other commands or characters will — in most cases — yield the greatest number of results, many with little true relevance to what you may actually be seeking.

With more than 16 billion pages currently indexed by Google, an average single-word search will result in more than 25 million pages that have some relevance to the term being queried. Popular terms will yield far more potential results, while more obscure terms can result in fewer than 100. If you are fortunate enough to be researching a fairly uncommon surname, you may have good luck with a single-word search. On the other hand, if you are conducting research for a common surname — including names with other popular meanings (e.g. Brown, Ford, White, etc.), you'll need to look beyond a single-word search. A typical online search most often involves a combination of two or more words and will likely yield more meaningful results for the user when compared to a single-word search.

## IGNORING COMMON WORDS

In an effort to improve speed and provide more meaningful results, Google ignores commonly used words, unless instructed otherwise. Words such as 'a',



*Google is one of the few sites on the Internet whose goal is to help you leave their site as quickly as possible.*

*Take a close look at the familiar Google results page shown above for the search term 'genealogy'.*

**How can one possibly find those few hidden pages that contain precisely the content they have been hoping for?**



Dan Lynch is a technology marketing consultant and professional genealogist based in Connecticut. A frequent lecturer, he is an APG member and also serves as vice president for the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. He can be found online at [www.danlynch.net](http://www.danlynch.net)

## Genealogical Googling

**Using the author's common Irish surname, you can see how 39 million results can be reduced to 58,300 just by using additional words.**

'of', 'the', 'or', 'and', 'to', 'how' and others will be ignored when processing your search. Example: The phrase "land of the free" will be processed the same as the two-word query "land free", both yielding about 148 million results.

In addition to being common words, both AND and OR are also reserved for use by Google as special operators, performing pre-defined functions when included in a search. They will only be treated as operators when entered in all upper-case letters. In addition, Google uses a technique called an "implied" or "automatic AND" — meaning they will interpret multiple word queries as if the word AND appears between each entry. This concept is discussed in greater detail later in this article.

### MORE WORDS, FEWER RESULTS

Consider the example of a consumer researching an item for potential purchase — in this case, searching for a

zoom lens for their Nikon underwater digital camera. Submitting a single-word search for 'camera'

	Search Term	Google Results
1	camera	257,000,000
2	digital camera	118,000,000
3	underwater digital camera	5,340,000
4	underwater digital camera lens	2,360,000
5	underwater digital camera zoom lens	1,390,000
6	Nikon underwater digital camera zoom lens	914,000

on Google would yield more than a quarter-billion potential results. This is far more than anyone can evaluate and while the top 10 results (those appearing on Google's first results page) will deal with cameras, they may not provide the depth of specific content needed for making an informed product decision. Extending this example, if the consumer

	Search Term	Google Results
1	lynch	39,100,000
2	lynch family	9,340,000
3	lynch family genealogy	4,910,000
4	connecticut lynch family genealogy	1,450,000
5	waterbury connecticut lynch family genealogy	58,300

conducts a new search for "Nikon underwater digital camera zoom lens", they would filter out more than 99.5 percent of the original results, leaving only those most directly relevant to their actual needs. Evaluating the first few sites, one does quickly find information specific to the product in question.

### SEARCHING FOR GENEALOGICAL GOLD

The concept of using several carefully

selected keywords applies nicely to family history research. You can combine one or more surnames with the names of cities, towns, counties or villages to pinpoint the exact family you are searching for. This technique can be your first step in quickly sorting through mountains of results to find your nugget of genealogical gold. Be careful not to apply too many filters too soon — you don't want to accidentally filter out possible results that may hold valuable clues.

Using the author's common Irish surname, you can see how 39 million results can be reduced to 58,300 just by using additional words. As we continue, you'll see how other simple commands can be used in conjunction with one another to refine these results even further — leading to a very manageable number of highly relevant results.

### AND, OR AND OTHER OPERATORS

In the previous examples, you can easily see how the addition of each word reduced the volume of search results. Google's use of the 'automatic AND' was the invisible filter being used on our behalf to reduce results to a more meaningful group.

In the third Lynch example, Google searched for pages including lynch AND family AND genealogy, seeking the presence of all three terms somewhere on the page to be included in the search results. Those pages matching three terms out of three would be considered most relevant, placing them high on the results list. Some pages might match just two of three terms, but still be included toward the bottom of the results list.

The plus sign (+) can be used in place of the AND operator, placing it directly in front of the term. When submitting a query with the absolute requirement that a specific term be included in resulting pages, use the plus symbol. (Example: lynch +genealogy could be used instead of lynch AND genealogy)

In a similar fashion, a minus sign (-) placed immediately before a word can be used to exclude results containing that word. This is especially helpful for genealogists when surnames or place names are words with alternate meanings. The city of Waterbury, located in New Haven County, Connecticut, is also the name of a town in Vermont. Waterbury is also the brand name of

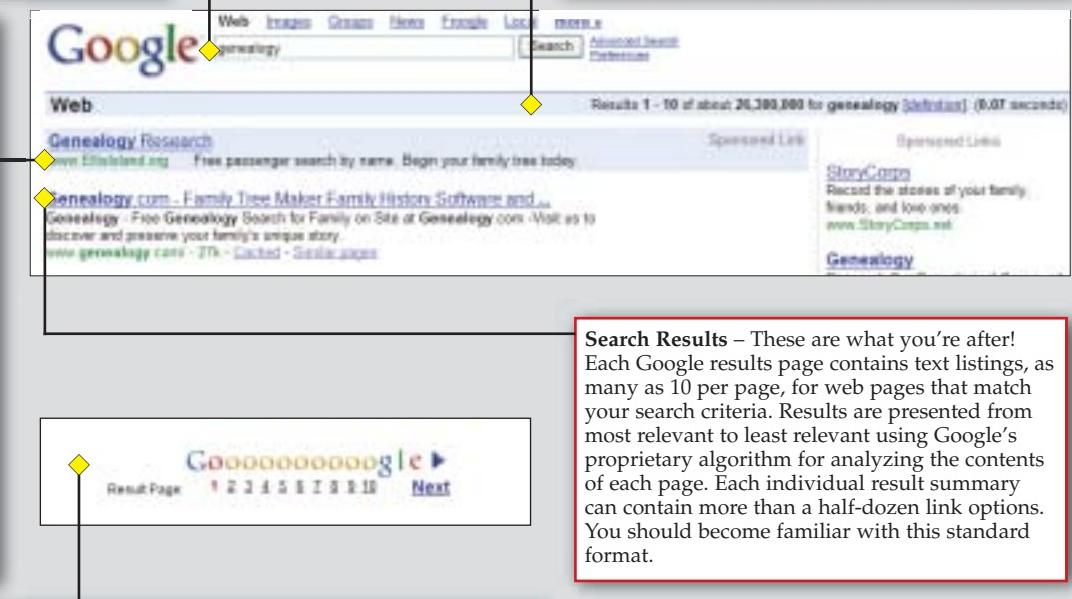
## ANATOMY OF THE GOOGLE WEB RESULTS PAGE

Learning how to submit more intelligent queries is just half the equation when using Google. The other half lies in understanding how results are presented by Google so that you can quickly scan the list and select one or more for closer inspection. The Google Web results page may appear crowded, but once you understand the basic layout, you will find it quite easy to use.

**Search Box** – The Google search box appears at the top of each results page adjacent to the Google logo. This box will contain the query most recently submitted, allowing further refinements if necessary. Above the box are small text links providing access to other Google tools and services.

**Result Statistics** – A single light-blue line appears horizontally across the page containing the approximate number of web pages matching the search criteria, along with the time it took to respond. Individual search terms are also repeated and a [definition] link will sometimes appear allowing you to obtain information about the word.

**Sponsored Links** – Google sells text-based advertising units on their results pages to generate revenue. Depending upon the individual words contained in your search, you may see text advertisements called ‘Sponsored Links’ along the top and/or the right side of the page. The advertiser pays Google for the placement on that page only if you click on their link and are delivered to their web page. Since the ads are based on specific keywords you provided, you may sometimes find the products or services featured helpful in your family history pursuits.



**Search Results** – These are what you’re after! Each Google results page contains text listings, as many as 10 per page, for web pages that match your search criteria. Results are presented from most relevant to least relevant using Google’s proprietary algorithm for analyzing the contents of each page. Each individual result summary can contain more than a half-dozen link options. You should become familiar with this standard format.

**Next & Previous** – At the bottom of each page, immediately following the last result summary, you may see Next and Previous links. Depending upon the volume of search results, you may see numbered links. Each number corresponds to a page which will include as many as 10 additional results for your review.

## A CLOSE-UP OF AN INDIVIDUAL GOOGLE RESULTS SUMMARY

While the summaries vary slightly depending upon the contents of the page,  
the format is consistent.

**Line 1** – Contains the Page Title as an underlined dark blue text link (which turns purple once you have visited the site). For pages containing foreign language content, an optional link may appear enabling an automatic translation of that page.

**Lines 2/3** – Either two or three lines, this black text contains a very brief summary of content from the site page. For both Page Title and content summary, any matching keywords will appear in bold-face type.

**Line 4** – Appearing in green text, this line displays the web address (also called a URL for Uniform Resource Locator) of the page, followed by the file size of that page (60k in this example). Also appearing on this line are two important links in light blue. The first link provides access to a ‘Cached’ version of this page. A cached page is a recent snapshot of that page, usually less than 60 days old, created by Google. This can be helpful when the live version of that page has been removed or is temporarily unavailable. A ‘Similar pages’ link may also appear at the end of this line. Clicking this link will execute a new search using a special related: operator. The results will display pages with content closely matching that of the page where the link appeared.

**Line 5** – The last line in the example shown above appears on the occasion when Google has determined that several pages from the same website may be relevant to your query. The first result is typically followed by a second indented summary, followed by the link [ More results from www.sitename.com ]. Clicking this link will execute a search using a special site: operator instructing Google to restrict the search to only that site.

## Genealogical Googling

many popular antique clocks and watches frequently featured for sale on the Internet. Submitting the search **waterbury -vermont -clock -watch** would look for pages including the term 'waterbury', but would then filter out those containing the words 'vermont', 'clock' and 'watch'.

Using OR (entered as upper case) can also be helpful for genealogists by providing additional flexibility in filtering search results. Submitting the search: "lynch family genealogy" waterbury OR bridgeport tells Google you want 'Lynch family genealogy' to appear in that exact order AND (implied) either the cities of Waterbury or Bridgeport. This query returns four results — all worthy of consideration.

These operators can be used individually or in combination with one another. By submitting a few practice searches, you will become more familiar with using these and other search filters.

### USING QUOTATION MARKS

When evaluating results, you may sometimes be frustrated to find a top-ranked site has little to do with your desired outcome. The page may reference the words Lynch and family and genealogy, but in an unrelated context. If you want to view just those results where the terms appear together, then resubmit the query using quotations — "lynch family genealogy" — and you'll reduce the 4.9 million results to just 2,550. Note that Google will interpret anything inside quotation marks as a request for an exact ordered match. When placed inside quotations, the search "Patrick Lynch" will yield different results from "Lynch Patrick" and you are encouraged to try both and compare the results.

Earlier in this article, you learned the word 'and' would be ignored as a common word if entered in lower-case letters (e.g. **internet and genealogy** will yield substantially similar results to those resulting from a search for **internet genealogy**). If, however, you need Google to factor this as part of a search, you can place it inside quotations to essentially override the filter used for common words.

As an example, searching for "**bed and breakfast**" (with quotes around the entire search string) will yield 13.7 million results, compared to 35.8 million for **bed AND breakfast**.

### SYNONYMS

In addition to the symbols + and - to add or remove terms from a search, Google can process synonyms for one or more search terms when preceded by the "~" symbol. This symbol is called a tilde and is the upper-case character to the immediate left of the number 1 on your computer keyboard. In the two examples below, note how expanding the second search to include synonyms for the word genealogy extends the pool of results seven-fold.

#### Example:

Search: lynch +connecticut genealogy  
Results: 226,000 results

Search: lynch +connecticut ~genealogy  
Results: 1,610,000 results (including terms such as roots, family tree, and others in place of genealogy)

### SEARCHING BEYOND GOOGLE WEB

For many Google users, the default 'Web' search is the only portion of the Google service they use. Other Google features use the same search conditions described earlier, so once you know how to navigate Google Web, you're ready to explore the other powerful features of the Google service. Those of particular interest to genealogists include Google Images and Google Language Tools.



### GOOGLE IMAGES

Google Images uses the input specified in your query to find pictures or graphic images appearing on web pages matching your search criteria. One quick search by a genealogist will turn up a wide array of vintage portraits, headstones, homesteads and many other fantastic images. The results page displays graphics in a grid pattern, four images across and five images down, for a total of up to 20 thumbnail images per page.



Clicking on the thumbnail image will bring you to the page where the image is displayed. A small text link appears at the top of the page — "See full-size image" — providing direct access to a full-sized version of that image. As you explore the power of this Google service, you should use the search tips discussed earlier to more quickly filter through potential images.

Now that you're on your way to becoming a Google power user, explore the other text links found above the search box. The better you become at mastering these search techniques, the more quickly you'll uncover clues to advance your family story.

# Irish Censuses Online

THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT that an agreement has been reached between the National Archives of Ireland and the Library and Archives Canada should have genealogists with Irish ancestry raising a pint of Guinness in celebration.

The agreement will see the Irish census records for 1901 and 1911 digitized,

indexed and placed online for free access by the 70 million Irish diaspora around the world. Library and Archives Canada, which will be leading the venture, is said to be among the leaders in the archival digitization process. The three-year project is also expected to draw huge interest in Canada, where 13 percent of the nation's population claim Irish roots. In fact, a similar online release of Canadian census returns a few years ago proved to be an overwhelming success.

Once completed, the project will allow anyone in the world to search for an Irish ancestor with minimal basic information, quickly and easily, and view a host of contextual historical imagery and information on contemporaneous events. A vast collection of first-hand evidence of their forebears' household, family and social circumstances from a century ago will be available online for download. Currently, records can only be seen at the National Archives in Dublin and searches must be completed manually.

The first phase of the project, which is expected to be released by December 2006, will see the 1911 Dublin census records go online. The Records detail the name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, county and country of birth of everyone listed in every domestic dwelling, prison, hospital and industrial

school in the 1911 census, including their literacy level, ability to speak Gaelic, the number of years women were married and total number of children born.

Ian Wilson, Head of Library and Archives Canada lauded the agreement, "We share an ethos with the Irish Government of free access for all to their heritage and we welcome this opportunity to use our expertise in connecting even more Canadians to their history."

John O'Donoghue, T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism Ireland, concurred: "Our records hold precious insights into Irish family history for millions at home and abroad, and we hope this service in collaboration with our Canadian partners will connect many people globally to their cultural roots."

The 1901 census is the earliest surviving govern-



ment census for the 32 counties of Ireland. The 1911 census also survives in its entirety. The first full government census of Ireland was taken in 1821 with further censuses every 10 years from 1831 to 1911. The original census returns for 1861 and 1871 were destroyed shortly after the censuses were taken, while those for 1881 and 1891 were pulped during WWI, likely due to widespread paper shortage.

The returns for 1821 to '51 were destroyed in the 1922 fire at the Public Record Office.



# Prospecting for Gold?

## ArchiveGrid Finds the Nuggets

WHETHER YOU ARE SEARCHING for your ancestor's California gold rush diary, John James Audubon's correspondence, a 16th-century Dutch cookbook or the records of Jewish relief agencies, ArchiveGrid unlocks the riches of hundreds of archives, libraries and museums in the US and around the world.

Launched to the public in March 2006, ArchiveGrid, [www.archivegrid.org](http://www.archivegrid.org), is the new name for an archival database of primary source material previously distributed mainly to the academic research community (known as Archival Resources). Redesigned in consultation with historians and genealogists, ArchiveGrid boasts almost one million collection descriptions and online archival finding aids, making it an excellent starting point for adding historical context, documentary evidence or narrative content to your family history. Genealogists will be pleased to find information about the host institution — its location, hours, use restrictions and how to order copies —readily available alongside their search results.

**SCOPE: WHAT'S IN ARCHIVEGRID?**  
ArchiveGrid is especially strong in history and genealogy, covering a wide range of subjects and types of primary source materials (e.g., correspondence, diaries, manuscripts, church and business records, printed matter, memorabilia and images), as reflected by the diverse collecting interests of contributing institutions. International in scope, it includes archival collection descriptions from Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, the US and many other countries. Along with prominent and familiar institutions — the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, New-York Historical Society, Chicago Public Library, Stanford University and the British Library — are many more specialized collections, such as those found at the Center for Jewish History, Charles Babbage Institute, East Tennessee State University, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, University of Amsterdam and Woody Guthrie Foundation and Archive.

ArchiveGrid simultaneously search-

es across two types of records:

1. 800,000 bibliographic records describing archival and manuscript collections from 166 institutions and
2. Nearly 65,000 full-text online archival finding aids (detailed collection guides and inventories) from 150 institutions.

The number of online archival finding aids has mushroomed in recent years and many of them provide a structured pathway into the collection as well as the ability to search for keywords within the collection guide. These online guides include such elements as:

- Collection Summary
  - Information for Researchers: Access, Publication Rights, Preferred Citation
  - Biographical Note
  - Scope and Content of Collection
  - Arrangement
  - Indexing and Subject Terms
  - Container List
  - Related Collections
- [Ability to search for keywords within guide]

**ArchiveGrid unlocks the riches of hundreds of archives, libraries and museums in the US and around the world.**

### FUNCTIONALITY: HOW DOES IT WORK?

The ability to search across such a vast reservoir of archival primary source materials via a unified search interface (and link to institutional directory information) is unprecedented. ArchiveGrid utilizes a basic keyword search box that permits combining terms, such as



names, subjects, places or events, relying on many familiar search syntax features (e.g., double quotation marks to search phrases and the use of Boolean operators — AND, OR, NOT — to limit or expand queries). Search tips, with examples, are provided on



*Bringing the world's archives to the desktop*

## Sample Nuggets in ArchiveGrid

INSTITUTIONS	COLLECTIONS GUIDES AND FINDING AIDS
American Jewish Historical Society Center for Jewish History	Guide to the Anti-Semitic Literature Collection, 1869-1993
American Philosophical Society	Eugenics Record Office Records, 1670-1964
Bowling Green State University	Northwest Ohio Civil War Newspaper Correspondence Index
Brigham Young University	African Oral History Project
Cornell University	Guide to the Japanese-American Relocation Centers records, 1935-1953
East Tennessee State University Archives of Appalachia	Appalachian Preaching Mission Records, 1954-1980
Getty Research Institute	Inventory of the Collection of Maps of Paris, ca. 1750-1900
Universiteit van Amsterdam [University of Amsterdam]	Inventaris van de collectie kookboeken 1552-heden [Inventory of the cookbook collection 1552-present]
University of California, Berkeley: The Bancroft Library and The Ethnic Studies Library; California Historical Society, San Francisco	Guide to Chinese in the California Virtual Collection The Chinese in California 1850-1925
University of California, Berkeley The Bancroft Library	Guide to the California Gold Rush Letters, 1848-1859
University of California, Santa Barbara	Guide to Stereoscopic Views Collection
University of Minnesota Libraries Immigration History Research Center	Inventory of the American Council for Nationalities Services Records, 1918-1986
University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection	Cuban Postcard Collection
University of Texas at Austin Center for American History	A Guide to the Natchez Trace Broadside Collection, 1785-1930
Yale University Library The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library	Morris Tyler Family Collection of John James Audubon
Yeshiva University Archives	An Inventory to the Records of the Central Relief Committee, 1914-1918



Martha L. Brogan is a professional librarian with 25 years experience at three major research universities. She developed an interest in genealogy

when she discovered intriguing artifacts upon her mother's death as chronicled in: *Family Values: Lessons in Material Culture*, on the Internet at Common-place, [www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org), in April 2005. Ms. Brogan currently works as an independent consultant, conducting research and writing about trends in digital libraries.

ArchiveGrid's homepage and reappear when a search query retrieves no results or via the "Help" page. In advanced search mode, users may search by date (range of years), archive or location, in addition to keyword.

Search results can be sorted by title (of the collection guide, finding aid or inventory), archive name or location. Results are clustered by archive or location in the left-hand margin of the screen, making it possible for users to link directly to those institutions or places of greatest interest. Users can also connect directly from a collection description to directory information

about the institution that owns the materials, making it possible for users to contact archivists, order copies or plan research visits.

### ACCESS: WHERE IS IT AVAILABLE?

ArchiveGrid is a product of RLG (formerly Research Libraries Group), a not-for-profit membership organization of over 160 universities, national libraries, archives, historical societies and other institutions with notable collections for research and learning. Thanks to a generous database re-design grant from the Earhart Foundation, RLG is offering the public free access to ArchiveGrid from March through May 2006, available at [www.archivegrid.org](http://www.archivegrid.org). Effective 1 June 2006, it will be offered on a subscription basis to institutions and individuals (annual or monthly basis). As of this writing, the cost has not been determined. Check the ArchiveGrid Website for details.

Researchers may find materials from ArchiveGrid when conducting searches in Google (or other general search engines). Google results are prefaced by: "Find history in ArchiveGrid." After 1 June 2006, users will be able to access ArchiveGrid's records from Google if they have a paid subscription or have an affiliation with a subscribing institution.

### WHAT YOU WON'T FIND

In general, ArchiveGrid does not provide access to the full text of primary source materials but rather identifies the finding aids, inventories and guides which describe collections. Nor does it cover secondary source materials such as published books or journal articles. Also excluded are official documents from the National Archives and Records Administration, including vital statistics, census data and military service records.

### CHECK BACK IN THE NEXT ISSUE

This review is based on a prototype version of ArchiveGrid that preceded its official launch. In the next issue of *Internet Genealogy* we plan to have an update about its contents, performance and pricing. In the meantime, genealogists are encouraged to take advantage of the three-month period of free access and to send RLG their feedback.

# **Dating Old Photographs & More Dating Old Photographs**

## **Two Great Reference Books for Genealogists**

You've almost certainly faced the problem: you've got an album or box of old photographs but almost all of them lack any identification. We have a solution: Here are two excellent reference books on dating old photographs. Order individually, or together for one special low price. *See below for details.*

*Dating Old Photographs* contains reproductions of old photographs of known date. This 96-page softcover volume contains over 650 pictures covering the period from the 1840s to the 1920s. By comparing your unknown pictures to those in our book, you will be able to compare clothing and hair fashions, the poses adopted by the subject and the background settings. The book provides convincing evidence that our ancestors were at least as fashion conscious as we are today and that those fashions changed just as frequently. Now in its second printing.  
**\$12 US or \$15 CDN — shipping included.**

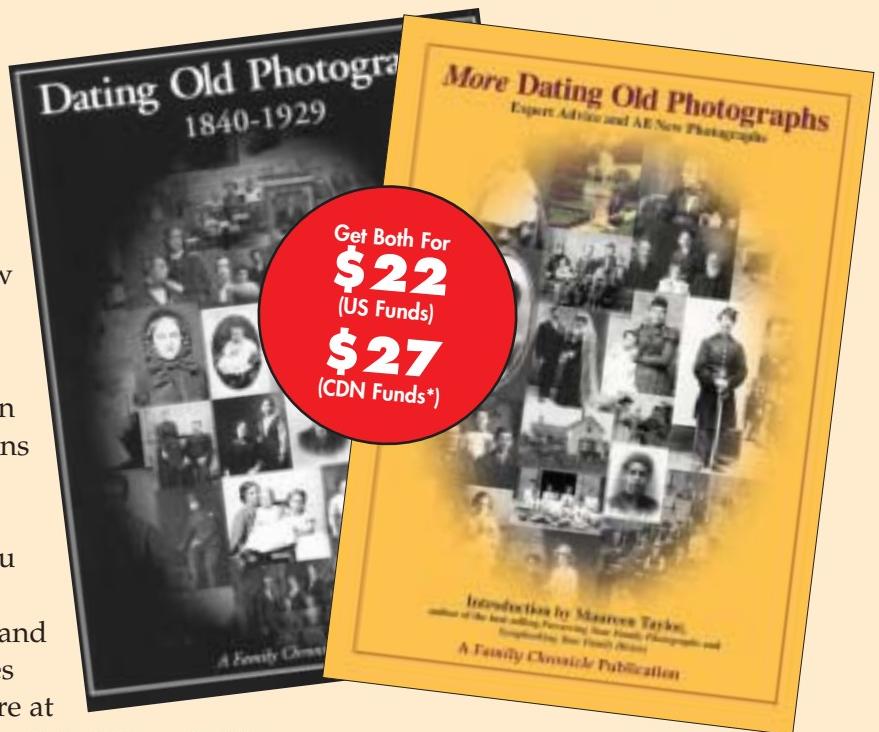
*More Dating Old Photographs* is an all-new 120-page softcover book that features 700 new examples of dated photographs from 1840-1929, an illustrated introduction by renowned old-photograph expert and best-selling author Maureen Taylor and additional sections on hand-tinted and unusual photographs.  
**\$16 US or \$20 CDN — shipping included.**

**SPECIAL BUNDLE PRICE, BOTH BOOKS: \$22 US or \$27 CDN — shipping included.**

### **Praise for *Dating Old Photographs*:**

"The best part of [*Dating Old Photographs*] is the examples."  
— Dick Eastman, *Dick Eastman Online*

"*Dating Old Photographs* is a must-have for anyone interested in dating old photos."  
— Kimberly Powell, *About.com*



### **ORDER FORM**

- Phone Toll-Free 1-888-326-2476 extension 111. Please have your VISA or MasterCard ready.
- Fax this order form to 416-491-3996. Please ensure your credit card information is filled out.
- Visit our website at [www.familychronicle.com](http://www.familychronicle.com)
- Mail this order form to the appropriate address located below:

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dating Old Photographs</i>	\$12 US	\$16.05 CDN *(\$15 + \$1.05 GST <sup>†</sup> )
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>More Dating Old Photographs</i>	\$16 US	\$21.40 CDN *(\$20 + \$1.40 GST <sup>†</sup> )
<input type="checkbox"/> Two book bundle	\$22 US	\$28.89 CDN *(\$27 + \$1.89 GST <sup>†</sup> )

All prices include shipping. <sup>†</sup>Residents of NS, NB or NL Please remit 15% HST instead of GST

Payment by:  Check (enclosed)  Credit Card  VISA  MasterCard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

USA orders send to: *Family Chronicle*, PO Box 194, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Canadian orders send to: *Family Chronicle*, 505 Consumers Road, Suite 500, Toronto, ON M2J 4V8

GST #13934 0186 RT.

IG1

# Case Study: William Pennington

IT'S NO SECRET that the Internet has revolutionized genealogy. Researching your family history is easier than ever before, but success depends largely on your online search skills. You need to know where to start, how to use search engines and how to query genealogy databases. Once you've gathered information, you also need to know how to resolve conflicting evidence and draw valid conclusions.

You can pick up search tips here and there — but how do they all fit together? A case study is a great way to see the bigger picture.

Here I'll describe how I researched an 18th-century colonist named William Pennington who stayed in North Carolina for only about 12 years before returning to England. The time period precedes census records and vital records but British and American websites revealed a surprising amount of information on William and his family. You haven't yet traced your family tree back to the 1700s and you don't have British ancestry? Read on, anyway. These search strategies can be applied to just about any genealogy research project, no matter what time period you're focusing on.

## SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU KNOW AND SET A RESEARCH GOAL

It's important to get your bearings before going headlong on a genealogical venture.

Start by creating a timeline or a summary of the key facts known about your ancestor. As I began this research project, I had information on two Revolutionary War Loyalists (they remained loyal to England) named Pennington — James and William. My ancestor James Pennington first shows up in 1778 in the muster rolls of the Queen's Rangers, a regiment recruited in the colonies. He was held as a prisoner of war at various places in Pennsylvania between 1779 and 1782. After the war ended, the British government granted him land in New Brunswick, where he died in 1808.

Assuming James Pennington was between 18 and 28 years old when he first appears on a muster roll in 1778, he would have been born in the 1750s. Several sources, including muster rolls,

Case studies in *Internet Genealogy* provide real-life examples demonstrating all the steps you might take to research a family. Here Rick Crume describes how he tackled someone who died well before the census and civil registration.

Although several mysteries surrounding William Pennington remain unsolved, we discovered a surprising amount of information on his life using the Internet.

Case studies will form a regular part of the article lineup in *Internet Genealogy*.

reveal that he was born in England, but they don't specify a town.

William Pennington, another Loyalist, lived in North Carolina and is mentioned in two standard reference works on the Loyalists:

- *Biographical Sketches of Loyalists of the American Revolution*, by Gregory Palmer, says, "PENNINGTON, WILLIAM. AO12/103/15, AO12/109 /942. Of North Carolina. Pennington travelled to America in 1765 with Governor William Tryon. He returned to England in 1776, and received a pension of £60 sterling per annum. Pennington claimed a loss of £941 sterling, and was awarded £150 sterling."

- Lorenzo Sabine's book of the same name says, "PENNINGTON, WILLIAM. Of Wilmington, North Carolina, and Comptroller of the Customs. An elegant writer, and admired for his wit and polished manners. Went to England. Was Master of Ceremonies at Bath."

My primary goal was to find out when and where James Pennington was born and the names of his parents. I wondered if he was related to William Pennington. If so, I hoped that research on William might shed light on James' origins.

## CHECK GENERAL SOURCES

Large, broad-based sources are a good place to begin your research. One of your first online destinations should be pedigree databases made up of family files submitted by researchers using genealogy software. RootsWeb's WorldConnect Project, <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/>, and the Ancestry World Tree, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), are two of the largest pedigree databases. They have more than 420 million names and data submitted to either database is also added to the other. Also, check the Pedigree Resource File and Ancestral

Rick Crume is the author of *Plugging Into Your Past: How to Find Real Family History Records Online* (*Family Tree Books*). Visit his website at [www.onelibrary.com](http://www.onelibrary.com).



**William Pennington was in North Carolina for only about 12 years before returning to England. The time period precedes census records and vital records but British and American websites revealed a surprising amount of information on William and his family.**

## Case Study: William Pennington

CULMSTOCK  
CULMSTOCK, a large village in the parish of the river Coln takes its name from Culmstock, and it lies S.E. of Wellington, has an area of 1110 acres of land, many fields from the valley, and including the hamlets of Upton, Wickhampstead, and Newstock. ... should observe, in itself it is not a good condition, and very inconvenient indeed during the late wars. The money he had been sent to the Queen and Chapter of Exeter, who are also proprietors of the manor, asked to £100, or £100, worth £2000 at £200, and were it not for the Queen's Rangers, who have a garrisoned fort of 1000 men, the Queen would have lost it in a short time. ... with arms, colours, drums, & fife, and bearing a cross upon passing out of one of its gates. In the parish are three Chapels, belonging to the Quakers, Baptists, and Presbyterians. They provide for a Universal Church, and the people hereabouts make the Queen and Chapter fort R.R. Click, Esq., and a few months ago, have erected here "From White's Directory [1851]."

A general Elementary Standard, under the Previous jurisdiction of the Queen and Chapter of Exeter.

- Queen & Chapter

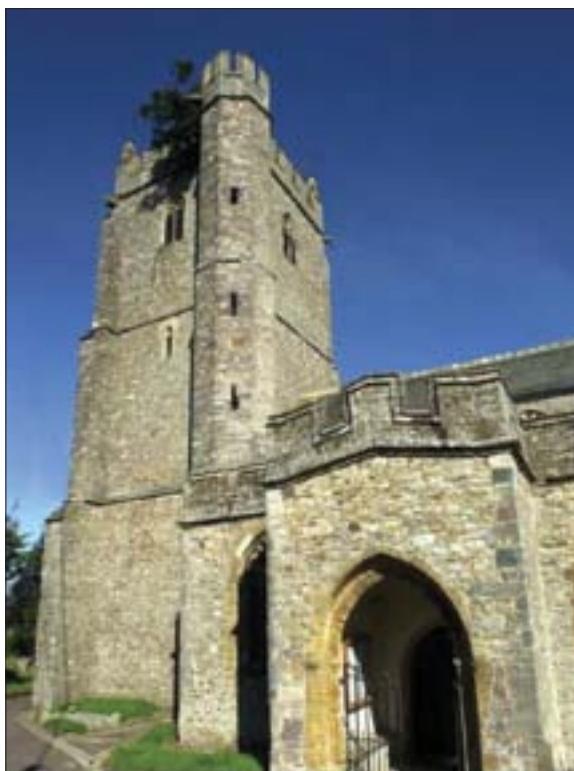
FamilySearch, lists 285 million births, baptisms and marriages from around the world. The IGI includes many

entries copied from original church records ("parish registers") and its coverage is especially strong for Great Britain. It lists eight James Penningtons and Pinnings born in England in the 1750s. However, most could not have been the Loyalist James Pennington because they died in infancy or were still living in England after 1778.

The Loyalist James Pennington married Mary Price and they are known to have had five children.

A son, James, was apparently named after his father, and daughters Jane and Deborah were named after Mary's mother and sister. Were the other two children, William and Elizabeth, also named after relatives? The IGI lists just one James Pennington born in the 1750s in England with parents named William and Elizabeth. Extracted from a parish register transcript, this IGI entry says that James Pennington was christened 5 January 1755 at Culmstock, Devon, England, a son of William Pennington and Elizabeth Collings. Assuming he was baptized soon after his birth, this James would have been about 23 years old when he first shows up as a

File, both on FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), and GenCircles, [www.gencircles.com](http://www.gencircles.com), a resource from the makers of Family Tree Legends software.



[www.themansfields.org.uk/culmstockchurch01.jpg](http://www.themansfields.org.uk/culmstockchurch01.jpg)

*Culmstock Church in east Devon from the website "A History of the Mansfield family from Devon and Wiltshire". Photo courtesy of Stephen Mansfield.*

**The Internet gives you many opportunities for networking with other genealogists.**

Loyalist in 1778, about 43 years old when he got married around 1798 and about 53 years old when he died in 1808. Based on his year of birth and the names of his parents, the James Pennington born in Culmstock in 1755 could have been the Loyalist James Pennington.

Googling the Queen's Rangers and its commander produced a couple of tantalizing clues. It may be just a coincidence, but the regiment is said to have had a strong connection to Devon and its commander, Gen. John Graves Simcoe, grew up in Wolford Lodge, Devon, just five miles from Culmstock.

The IGI shows that William Pennington and Elizabeth Collings were married on 19 September 1743 at Culmstock. You can search for all the children of a couple on FamilySearch by just filling in the father's and mother's names. A search for William and Elizabeth's children turns up four matches — William, Isaac, Rebecca and James. William, the son, was christened on 26 March 1744 at Culmstock. Was he the Loyalist William Pennington? If so, he was about 21 years old when he went to North Carolina in 1765.

**NETWORK WITH OTHER RESEARCHERS**  
The Internet gives you many opportunities for networking with other genealogists. You might find someone who is researching one of your ancestral lines or who can offer advice on finding records in a particular place. It's worthwhile to search all the messages previously posted to a forum or mailing list and to post your own research interests and questions.

GenForum, [www.genforum.com](http://www.genforum.com), has discussion forums for states, countries and general genealogy topics, but the surname forums get the most traffic. You can easily search all the messages ever posted to a particular forum. You might search a surname forum for a place or search a place forum for a surname. A search of the Pennington surname forum for the terms Loyalist, New Brunswick, Devon and Devonshire produced no relevant matches.

On Ancestry.com, click on Ancestry Community to share research and ideas with other members. You can register your surname interests, post messages on surname, locality and topic boards and create a public profile so other members can find you.

## Case Study: William Pennington

RootsWeb, [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com), provides several popular ways to network with other researchers. The RootsWeb Surname List, <http://rsl.rootsweb.com>, lets you register your surname interests and it has more than 1.1 million surname entries on file. RootsWeb message boards cover surnames, places and topics. You can search them all at once. Nearly 30,000 RootsWeb mailing lists for surnames, places and research topics cover everything from Anderson to Zimmerman and Albania to Zimbabwe. Using RootsWeb's Interactive Mailing List Search, you can search only one year of messages posted to a single list at a time. It's better to use Google to search all messages ever posted to all the lists at once. Searching for a surname and a place name is a good way to focus on relevant matches. This Google query finds messages posted to RootsWeb mailing lists that mention the surname Pennington and the town of Culmstock. Search on: **site:archiver.rootsweb.com Pennington Culmstock**. You can use the same format to search for any surname/place name combination. RootsWeb has a mailing list for genealogy in the county of Devon, England, so I posted a message to it with the subject "PENNINGTON & COLLINGS of Culmstock." My message summarized what I knew about William and Elizabeth (Collings) Pennington and their children. I also mentioned the Loyalists James and William Pennington and noted that William returned to England where he was a Master of Ceremonies at Bath.

A few days after posting the message I got a reply from Michael Pascoe, a local historian in Clifton, part of Bristol, England. As it turned out, William Pennington lived at Clifton when he returned to England. With a keen knowledge of the area's history and easy access to local libraries, Michael made several important findings. The staff at the Bristol Reference Library showed him a letter they had received in about 1992 from the editor of the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* requesting information on William Pennington, as well as a copy of the final version of his biography. The biography provides detailed information on William Pennington's activities in North Carolina and England. As comptroller of customs for the port of Brunswick, then North Carolina's leading port, he was responsible for "col-

lecting customs duties and inspecting ships in search of cargoes on which duties had not been paid." William held this position for over 10 years, but opposition to the Stamp Act grew, the colonists revolted and business at the Custom House ceased in February 1776. He was driven out of North Carolina and returned to England.

Putting behind him the thankless job of tax collector, William Pennington assumed a position that would gain him much more public favor. According to the brief entry in Sabine's book on the Loyalists, he became a Master of Ceremonies at Bath. Armed with that clue, I searched Google for "William Pennington" "Master of Ceremonies" and turned up a site, "Bristol History Then and Now: The Hotwells Spring", that mentions William:

*"There were several springs in the Hotwells vicinity... During the eighteenth century the spa became a fashionable resort and was visited by many famous people... After 1785, Hotwells imitated the City of Bath by appointing a Master of Ceremonies, a Mr William Pennington who wore a gold medallion on a blue ribbon to emphasize the dignity of his office. Elaborate balls were held in the evenings, and public breakfasts in the mornings, as was fashionable in those days."*

The *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* provides more details:

*"Clifton Hot Wells was a popular spa, 15 miles from the better-known Bath. It was the function of the Master of Ceremonies to arrange balls, entertainments and other amusements for the pleasure of the wealthy and the titled elite of the day. One of his acquaintances observed, "We are all in the right to love Mr. Pennington, 'tis for all our credit to love him". Another said, "He has won all our hearts here, and his charming wife will do the same with his friends wherever they are".*

Michael Pascoe, my trusty contact in England, made another interesting find — William Pennington's "*Rules of the Bristol Hotwells*" — in a guidebook to Bristol from the 1780s. The eight rules were intended to preserve proper decorum at the balls. Rule No. 3 admonishes gentleman from appearing with a sword or spurs or wearing boots



*The International Genealogical Index (IGI) is one of the first places to look for records from the 18th century. It is particularly strong on British births and marriages. The IGI can be accessed at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)*

*Many Loyalists were driven from their homes following the Revolution. Some settled in Canada while others, like William Pennington, returned to England.*



## Case Study: William Pennington

### RULES of the BRISTOL HOTWELL

*The Master of the Ceremonies, whose inclination coincides with his duty to conduct the entertainments of this place with proper decorum, yet without unnecessary restraint, requests the favor of the company to attend to the following rules:*

- 1<sup>st</sup>. That a certain row of men be set apart at the upper end of the room, for ladies of precedence, and foreigners of fashion.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. That every lady who has a right to precedence, deliver her card to the Master of the Ceremonies on her entering the room.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. That no gentleman appear with a sword or with spurs in these rooms, or on a ball night in boots.
- 4<sup>th</sup>. That after a lady has called her dance, her place in the next is at the bottom; and for the future it is to be understood that no lady of rank can avail herself of it, after the country dances are begun.
- 5<sup>th</sup>. That on ball nights, when minuets are danced, ladies who intend dancing there, will sit in a front row, for the convenience of being taken out and returning to their places.
- 6<sup>th</sup>. That on all occasions ladies are admitted to those rooms in pairs, not excepting the balls given by the Master of the Ceremonies.
- 7<sup>th</sup>. That the subscription-balls will begin as soon as possible after seven o'clock, and conclude at eleven, on account of the health of the company.
- 8<sup>th</sup>. It is earnestly requested, that when a lady has gone down the dance, she will be so polite, as not to return till it is concluded.

WM PENNINGTON Esq.  
Master of the Ceremonies  
Jr May 1785

on a ball night. Rule No. 5 encourages ladies who wish to dance minuets on ball nights to sit in a front row, "for the convenience of being taken out and returning to their places." I probably never would have discovered this priceless document had I not made contact with a knowledgeable local historian. Mailing lists and online forums are great ways to take advantage of other researcher's expertise and to share your own insights.

notes that Penelope's correspondence with one friend was published in *The Intimate Letters of Hester Piozzi and Penelope Pennington, 1788-1821*, which I borrowed on interlibrary loan. The letters include book critiques, comments on politics, complaints about bad health and occasional gossip and moralizing. They're not particularly helpful from a strictly genealogical perspective, but they reveal a lot about the letter writers' character and times. Family history is much more fun when you go beyond names, dates and places and learn something about your ancestors' lives and personalities.

You never know how someone's name might appear online, so it's important to search on all possible variations. Do separate searches with the given name first, the last name first and with and without middle names and initials. Put quotation marks around words to search on an exact phrase. Searching for a person's name and the name of the town, county, state or province where he lived often produces the most relevant matches.

When searching the Internet for an ancestor's name, you're most likely to find it mentioned in a genealogy report someone has posted online or in a local history. But you just might get lucky and find a reference to a relative's diary, letters or business records. Googling for Penelope, I tried several forms of her name, such as "Penelope Sophia Weston", "Penelope Weston", "Penelope Pennington" and "Pennington Penelope". Matches included descriptions of manuscript collections at the Yale and Princeton libraries, both of which have correspondence between Penelope and her friends. Some of the letters have been published or microfilmed, so they could be available on interlibrary loan. Others would have to be consulted in the libraries.

### RESEARCH YOUR ANCESTORS' PLACES OF RESIDENCE

It's worthwhile to investigate the history, geography and archives of the places where your ancestors lived. Did county boundaries change? Have gravestones been transcribed? Where are the records kept? For answers to questions like these, turn to the USGenWeb Project for the United States and GENUKI for the British Isles.

The USGenWeb Project [www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org) has a web page for every

**William Pennington was married on 27 Dec 1792 to Penelope Sophia Weston, "an attractive, popular lady who had declined many offers of marriage", according to the biography.**

**GOOGLE YOUR ANCESTORS**  
Google, [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), and other Internet search engines, such as Yahoo!, [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), and MSN, [www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com), index every word in millions of web pages. That gives you tremendous power. You might find a detailed biography of an ancestor or a passing reference to a relative that provides just the clue you need to break through a brick-wall in your family history research.

My contact in England sent me a copy of William Pennington's biography in the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. Had I searched the Internet more tenaciously, I might have uncovered the biography on my own. Search Google for "Pennington William" "North Carolina" and one of the first matches is "Dictionary of NC Biography Index", [www.wakegov.com/libraries/specialcollections/ncbioindex.htm](http://www.wakegov.com/libraries/specialcollections/ncbioindex.htm).

With this reference to William Pennington, I could have requested his biography on interlibrary loan.

William Pennington was married on 27 December 1792 to Penelope Sophia Weston, "an attractive, popular lady who had declined many offers of marriage", according to the biography. Her circle of friends included many literary-minded people, and they were prolific letter-writers. The *Dictionary*

## Case Study: William Pennington

county in the US. County pages often provide contact information for local libraries and archives and describe their genealogical holdings. Volunteers have contributed a lot of helpful material to the county web pages, such as census indexes, church records and cemetery transcriptions. You should check the USGenWeb Project for all the counties where your ancestors lived.

The USGenWeb Project site for Brunswick County, North Carolina, where William Pennington worked as Comptroller of the Customs, has marriage records, Civil War rosters and tax lists. The county tax list for 1769 shows William Pennington living alone, but the 1772 tax list shows his household included a Negro woman.

GENUKI, [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk), sort of a British version of the USGenWeb Project, features detailed genealogical guides for each county. The Devon page is a tremendous resource, with transcribed census records, an extensive guide to church records, links to related sites and much more. The site notes that wills proved in Devon before 1858 were destroyed in WWII, but indexes still exist. The guide to Devon towns and parishes includes a detailed profile of Culmstock. It says parish register transcripts go back to 1545 and christenings and marriages from 1608 to 1837 are indexed in the IGI.

### SEARCH ONLINE BOOKS

You can search for any word in several online book collections, much the same as you search web pages. In addition to genealogy book collections, don't overlook general collections that include some family history and local history books.

Ancestry.com, available by subscription and at Family History Centers and many libraries, gives you online access to thousands of family history and local history books and other resources, including census, immigration and military records. Several searches on the home page turned up nothing useful, so I clicked on the Search tab which opens a search form that lets you specify a keyword. That often produces the most relevant matches.

William Pennington lived at Brunswick, North Carolina, so I searched on the last name Pennington and the keyword Brunswick. That produced many matches, including two

pertinent ones. A report on the Loyalists dated 27 February 1784 from Second Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario, says:

"Wm.

*Pennington is a native of England. He went to America in 1764, as Comptroller of the Port of Brunswick in N. Carolina. He was appointed by the Lords of the Treasury, his salary was £40 pr. an. He continued at Brunswick until Feby. 1776. He never was molested personally.*

*In Sept. 1776 the envolvements of his office ceased as all business was stopt at the Custom House in Feby. 1776..."*

The second relevant match on Ancestry was a brief mention of William Pennington in the *Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century*. It tells how, in January 1766, colonists angry with the Stamp Act:

*"...marched to Brunswick where Gov. Tryon lived, took from his residence Col. Pennington, the comptroller of the province, and made him and all the officers of the province swear that they would not execute the law."*

Since neither of these references spells out the name William, you wouldn't find them by searching on the full name William Pennington.

HeritageQuest Online, [www.heritagequestonline.com](http://www.heritagequestonline.com), available at many libraries and as a benefit of membership in some genealogical societies, provides online access to 20,000 genealogy and local history books, as well as census records and other resources. Selecting Search Books — People, I tried name searches for William Pennington and Penelope Pennington, as well as various keyword searches, but just one search produced a relevant match. I typed **Pennington near:25 Brunswick** in the Keywords search box to find the words Pennington and Brunswick within 25 words of each other. That turned



*William Pennington was appointed a Master of Ceremonies at Hot Wells spa. In this role, he wore a gold medallion on a blue ribbon to emphasize the dignity of his office. He organized elaborate balls in the evenings, and public breakfasts in the mornings, as was fashionable in those days.*

## Case Study: William Pennington

284

### GRETARY.

Topliss, aged 16, Benjamin Isaac, esq., Senator of France.  
Dowret.—Feb. 11. At Sherborne, Elizabeth Parker, daughter of the Hon. James Henry and Lady Elizabeth Duxbury.  
March 15. At her home at Spitalbury, aged 45, the Hon. Anna Maria Arundell, sister to Lord Arundell of Winstanley. She was the oldest daughter of James Edward 3rd and his Lady; by his wife the Hon. Mary Christian, eldest daughter of Henry the 5th Lord Arundell. Her remains were interred in the Chapel at Winstanley Castle.

Dowret.—March 4. At Durban, Miss Elizabeth Amble, only daughter of the late Mr. Amble, esq., many years Receiver of that city.

Greenberg.—Jan. 11. At Clifton, the wife of Adam Sir H. Sawyer, K.C.B.  
Jan. 11. At Gloucester, Lady George Sutton.  
Jan. 27. Aged 27, Mr. John Henry Franklin, minister of Boscombe.  
Feb. 24. Aged 41, Anne, eldest daughter of S. Wharton, son of Hudson Hall, Gloucester.  
Feb. 26. At Shadington House, aged 15 months, Margaret Elizabeth, third daughter of Samuel Hart Gist, esq.  
March 23. At Bristol Hotwells, at an advanced age, William Pennington, one time past Master of the Ceremonies at that place. After a 11. The wife of Joseph Mandeville, son Clerkebridge.  
Obit.—At Southampton House, near Chelmsford, Mrs. Grace Welsh, sister to the late Thomas Bullock Dillidore, son

[March,

aged 75, Holland Watson, esq., one of the oldest Magistrates for the counties of Chester and Lancashire. He had the command of the East volunteer corps raised in the former county in 1793, and remained it until its dissolution at the peace.  
Lancaster.—Feb. 11. At Lancaster, Mrs. Greenbank, in her 85th year, the relation of H. Cleverly, esq. of Langley Hall, Duxbury.  
Lancaster.—Feb. 11. At Lancaster, aged 81, Elizabeth, widow of the Rev. C. Churchill, Rector of Great Paxton, daughter of the Rev. Richard Barres, formerly Vicar of Grantham, and sister of the Rev. Wm. Tatton, Vice of Bathurst upon-Swale.  
March 6. At Louth, Langley Gate, aged 81, member of the Local Corporation, and Director of Nottinghamshire's plate of Lindsey.  
Shrewsbury.—Feb. 18. At Hill Cottage, near Wimborne, Emma, the wife of J. P. De la Fosse, esq. of Gostwyck, Hereford.  
Feb. 18. At Hadley, aged 88, Charles Carter, esq.  
March 6. Aged 74, Thomas Cooper, esq. of Heydon upon-Teme.  
Brentwood.—Feb. 19. Aged 88, John Hall, of Chipping, gentlewoman.  
Aged 81, William Shewell, well known by name as Minister to the late George Fox, the Nonconformist of Long Bredy, during the period he kept his park of Foxbury.  
Feb. 18. At Wirksworth, aged 78, Isaac, widow of the late Rev. Mr. Isaac Lupton, who was many years Doctor of that parish.  
March 17. At the Rectory, Middlestock-Cheriton, the wife of the Rev. Archibaldus Clinton.

up the same book with Carolina biographies found on Ancestry.com.

PERSI, another resource on HeritageQuest Online, indexes family history and local history journals. I searched for Brunswick County, North Carolina, and found citations to several arti-

cles, such as "Brunswick, story of a colonial town" in the *North Carolina Historical Review*, that tell about the town when William Pennington lived there.

I tried smaller online book collections, too. The new BYU Family History Archive, [www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu](http://www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu), a cooperative program between the Family History Library and Brigham Young University, has over 4,000 family histories and local histories. Cornell University's Making of America, [library8.library.cornell.edu/moa](http://library8.library.cornell.edu/moa), and the University of Michigan's Making of America, [www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp](http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp), have some local history books, too. I didn't find mention of William or Penelope Pennington in any of these collections.

Amazon.com's A9 search engine [www.a9.com](http://www.a9.com) scours both books and websites in a single search and turned up websites and books with Penelope Pennington's letters.

Although Google Book Search, [books.google.com](http://books.google.com), formerly called Google Print, is still in the test phase, it produced several useful matches not found anywhere else. A search for Pennington Brunswick turned up a biography of North Carolina's governor, William Tryon and the Course of Empire: A Life in British Imperial Service, which gives a play-by-play account of William Pennington's encounter with the citizenry of North Carolina, angry over enforcement of the Stamp Act. You can view just a few pages from this book, however, you can't save or print them. Google provides links to dealers where you can buy the book.

Searching for "Master of the Ceremonies" Pennington on Google Book Search produced three matches, including two books with Penelope Pennington's letters. The other match was William's obituary in *The Gentleman's Magazine* of March 1829:

"Mar 15th in Dowry Square, Hotwells, at an advanced age, William Pennington, Esq., many years Master of the Ceremonies of that place."

The copyright on this work has expired, so you can view the whole document online. My contact in England had already sent me the obituary, but this example shows Google Book Search's potential to become a tremendous resource for genealogists.

### SEARCH LIBRARY CATALOGS

Online library catalogs can help you locate books and manuscripts that aren't online yet — and that's most of them.

The Family History Library Catalog on FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), lists the holdings of the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, the largest genealogical library in the world. You'll find both books and original records and almost everything on microfilm or microfiche can be borrowed for a small fee through an LDS Family History Center in your community. You should do a Place Search of the catalog for the towns, counties, states, provinces and countries where your ancestors lived.

The FHL lists several resources that might provide information on William Pennington. A Place Search for Clifton, Gloucester, England reveals records of St. Andrew's Church at Clifton from 1538 to 1951 and many other resources. Records from Culmstock, Devon, England include transcripts of records of the parish church from 1608 to 1837.

The FHL, however, has no records for the town of Brunswick, North Carolina, which was the county seat of Brunswick County from 1764 to 1779. I searched Google for Brunswick "North Carolina" history and found that British troops razed the town in 1776 and it was never rebuilt. The walls of St. Philip's Anglican Church dating back to 1754 still stand. I haven't found the church's records. The FHL notes that many Brunswick County court records were destroyed in the US Civil War and the library has few county

An obituary for William Pennington can be found online in *The Gentleman's Magazine* dated March 1829:

"Mar 15. At Bristol Hotwells, at an advanced age, William Pennington, esq., many years Master of the Ceremonies of that place." To find this page, enter Master of Ceremonies Pennington into the search box in Google Book Search.

**Although Google Book Search, [books.google.com](http://books.google.com), formerly called Google Print, is still in the test phase, it produced several useful matches not found anywhere else.**

## Case Study: William Pennington

records from before 1776.

The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) [www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html](http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html), on the Library of Congress website, lists more than 500,000 manuscripts at thousands of American libraries. NUCMC has two catalogs, RLG and OCLC, so be sure to search both of them. You might search on just a surname, a surname and the word family or a surname and a place name. A search for Penelope Pennington using the RLG Catalog's Easy Search form turned up letters at Harvard, Yale and Princeton. The same search of the OCLC catalog revealed a microfilm version of the manuscripts at Princeton.

State archives, libraries and historical societies preserve old state records and they often house old county documents, too. Many of these institutions have online catalogs. To find them, refer to the CoSA Directory of State Archives and Records Programs [www.statearchivists.org/states.htm](http://www.statearchivists.org/states.htm) and the Library of Congress Directory of State Libraries [www.loc.gov/global/library/statelib.html](http://www.loc.gov/global/library/statelib.html).

The Manuscript and Archives Reference System (MARS) of the North Carolina State Archives, [www.ncarchives.dcr.state.nc.us](http://www.ncarchives.dcr.state.nc.us), gives detailed descriptions of the archives' manuscript holdings. A search for William Pennington turned up several references to documents from the late 18th century. By a warrant dated 11 May 1764, William Pennington was appointed comptroller of customs at Brunswick, North Carolina, for a salary of £30 a year. His claim dated 25 January 1777 is described as a

*"Petition to the Treasury for relief from his loss of salary as Collector of Customs at Port Brunswick, North Carolina, occasioned by his loyalty to the Crown and his flight from North Carolina in March 1776."*

If you can't visit in person, most archives will make copies for a fee. You can search online catalogs for British libraries and archives, too. The catalog of the UK's National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office), [www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk), has references to more than 9.5 million documents dating back hundreds of years. I searched for William Pennington and found an intriguing entry. Item #WO 97/795/115 pertains to William Pennington, born in Combstock, Devonshire, who served in the 66th Foot Regiment and was discharged

in 1785 at age 45. "Combstock" must be a misspelling of Culmstock. This William Pennington looks tantalizingly like the one baptized in Culmstock in 1744, but he probably would have been only about 41 years old in 1785.

Access to Archives (A2A), [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk), catalogs regional archives in England. At last count, it described 8.7 million records dating back more than one thousand years and held by 395 record offices. Citations summarize court records, property records, wills and other records and give the name of the record office that has the item. I searched for **William Pennington AND Culmstock AND William Pennington AND Clifton**, but didn't find any references that seemed relevant.

### CHECK PRIMARY SOURCES AND WEIGH THE EVIDENCE

As you research your family history, it's helpful to use genealogy software to record each piece of information and where you found it. You may find conflicting evidence. Keep in mind that secondary sources, such as local history books and compiled genealogies, may not be as reliable as primary sources, such as a birth certificate or a will. The *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* provides a lot of useful information on the Loyalist William Pennington and it includes a helpful bibliography. Still,

it's a secondary source and it's important to verify the information with original sources. The biography says William was born in 1738, but it's not clear where that information came from.

In fact, the evidence suggests that the Loyalist William Pennington was the

**As you research your family history, it's helpful to use genealogy software to record each piece of information and where you found it.**

*The job of Collector of Customs didn't make you popular. Customs duties were the largest source of revenue for the colonial administration.*

*To avoid paying duties, smuggling was common.*

*This engraving shows customs officers who have intercepted a ship trying to smuggle goods into the colonies to avoid paying duty.*



## Case Study: William Pennington



A copy of William Pennington's last will and testament may be accessed online at [DocumentsOnline](http://www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk), www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk, from the U.K. National Archives. Searching is free but to download the image costs about \$6.25 us.

**Someday, maybe next week, maybe a 100 years from now, someone may look at my website or read one of my articles, follow up on the clues I've uncovered so far and solve the questions that remain.**

same William Pennington who was baptized on 26 March 1744 at Culmstock, Devon, England. Transcripts of the Culmstock church records show that a William Pennington, probably the father of the William Pennington baptized in 1744, was buried on 15 April 1764. Less than a month later, by a warrant dated 11 May 1764, William Pennington (Jr.) was appointed Comptroller of Customs for the port of Brunswick, North Carolina. The Loyalist William Pennington's burial record also ties him to the William Pennington baptized at Culmstock. The Family History Library's microfilmed records of Dowry Chapel in Clifton, Gloucestershire, England, show that William Pennington died at age 84 and was buried on 23 March 1829 in the chapel vault. The date and age fit just right with the William Pennington baptized on 26 March 1744; he probably died just short of his 85th birthday. DocumentsOnline, www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk, from the UK National Archives, has digital images of more than a million wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury from 1384 to 1858 and a few from later years. You can search the index for free, and it costs £3.50 (about \$6.25 us) to download most wills. I found William Pennington's will, written in 1827 soon after he was widowed. He had no children. A resident of 13 Dowry Square in Clifton, Gloucestershire, he left his entire estate to his "dear friend," Sophia Wrenster.

Online sources reveal many biographical details on William Pennington and his wife and point to records, letters and published sources not yet online, but nothing found so far names his parents or siblings or gives his date and place of birth. The evidence suggests that the Loyalists William and James Pennington were the brothers baptized at Culmstock, Devon, in 1744 and 1755, but questions remain. Did family connections get William the job as comptroller of customs and lead James to join the Queen's Rangers? If William and James were brothers, why didn't William leave part of his estate to his surviving nephews and nieces? What became of their brother Isaac and sister Rebecca? And who was the William Pennington from Culmstock who served in the 66th Regiment of Foot? Maybe answers to these questions will be revealed in the next batch of books Google scans or the next British manuscript collection indexed in Access to Archives.

### PUBLISH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

While you may never "finish" your family history, at some point it's a good idea to organize your findings and share them online or in print. Most genealogy software makes it easy to create a website with your family history and to update it at any time. I posted my report on the Penningtons of Culmstock on my website at [www.onelibrary.com/Genealogy/penningtonculmstock](http://www.onelibrary.com/Genealogy/penningtonculmstock). Your online report may remain for all eternity in Google's cache, but websites come and go, so it's also a good idea to put your family history in print. You can use your genealogy software to create a report with a standard numbering system and footnotes or just use your word processor to write your family history. Instead of publishing a book, I wrote articles on the Pennington family for *Generations*, the quarterly publication of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society, and for *Pennington Pedigrees*, the journal of the Pennington Research Association.

Someday, maybe next week, maybe a 100 years from now, someone may look at my website or read one of my articles, follow up on the clues I've uncovered so far and solve the questions that remain.



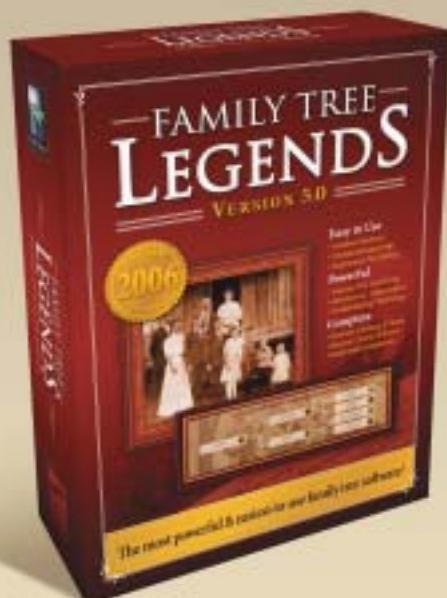
Introducing the most powerful & easiest-to-use family tree software available.

"All in all, I am very impressed with Family Tree Legends. ...A significant upgrade to an already first-class program. It is powerful and easy to use. ...I would strongly suggest that you try Family Tree Legends. The program has a full 30-day, no questions-asked money-back guarantee; so what do you have to lose?" - Dick Eastman

The screenshot shows a pedigree chart for the Hiser family. At the top, there's a yellow circular badge with the text "ALL NEW VERSION 5.0" around the perimeter and "\$29.95" in the center. Below the badge is a screenshot of the software interface, which displays a pedigree chart with several generations of the Hiser family. The chart includes names, birth dates, and death dates for each individual. A legend at the bottom left identifies symbols for males (blue square), females (pink square), and deceased individuals (red square).

#### Version 5.0 Available!

Try Family Tree Legends™ risk free, with a full 30-day money-back guarantee.



Family Tree Legends™ is a powerful & sophisticated genealogy program designed to make it easy for you to collect, display, & organize your family history.

# FAMILY TREE LEGENDS

VERSION 5.0

[www.familytreelegends.com](http://www.familytreelegends.com) ~ 1-800-326-5816

System Requirements • Windows XP, 2000, ME, 98, 95 • 166 MHz Processor • 32 MB of RAM • 30 MB of Hard Disk Space  
Family Tree Legends™ is a trademark of Pearl Street Software. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.



Pearl Street  
Software

# Linkpendium

**According to its website, Linkpendium is “The definitive directory to genealogical and other resources on the web.”**



*As with many websites that focus on substance rather than style, Linkpendium is not pretty but it is crammed with useful information.*

*669 links are offered  
when Allegheny  
County, PA  
is selected.*



## WHEN YOU START SEARCHING for your ancestors, where do you begin?

If you asked this question 10 years ago, besides the obvious response of "at home", many genealogists would have said "the courthouse", or the "City or County Clerk's Office" or perhaps even the local Family History Center branch of the LDS Family History Library (FHL).

While these places are still important fixtures in the field of genealogy,

more than likely most family history sleuths today would say they begin their search on the Internet. In fact, searching for ancestors on the web is becoming increasingly popular, says Nielsen/NetRatings, with eight percent of the total people online in the US logging on to research their family

history in April 2005 (statistics from Netratings.com [www.netratings.com](http://www.netratings.com) reported at: <http://blogs.zdnet.com/ITFacts/?p=1229>).

If indeed, you begin your search online, what sites do you visit first? Certainly, genealogists today are not short of options when surfing the web for clues to the past. But what if you could go to a site where you could start by looking at a particular surname or a locality in the US where your ancestors may have resided for a period or settled in permanently? A site that combines the functionality of relevant links *à la* Cyndi's List ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)), yet penetrates the layers of the Internet better than a Google search?

Well genealogists,  
there is some good  
news, a site called  
Linkpendium,  
[www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com).

## WHAT IS IT?

According to its website, Linkpendium is "The definitive directory to genealogical and other resources on the web." The

Linkpendium collection currently includes **3,251,076** links specialized to genealogical information.

Linkpendium is being developed by Karen Isaacson and Brian Leverich, founders of the extremely popular RootsWeb genealogical community site. At the time of its merger with Ancestry in June 2000, RootsWeb had about 600,000 registered users, was serving about 100,000,000 web page views monthly and was delivering about 160,000,000 pieces of e-mail monthly to the subscribers of its 18,000 mailing lists.

"Karen and I were both amazed by the huge volume of genealogically-relevant information that is freely available on the web. Volunteer groups, libraries and many other organizations are bringing amazing resources online," says Leverich. Based on this information, they set out to build the comprehensive directory. He also notes that Linkpendium is unusual in that they operate Network Operations Center, a 1,000 square foot facility with a direct connection through Sprint to the Internet backbone. "We operate our own routers, switches, servers, uninterruptible power supplies, and generators, and we exclusively use Open Sources software," says Leverich.

Updates to the website are made several times a week, and take about three hours to run on a high-end server. The Linkpendium collection is huge, with a raw size more than 10 times larger than the next-most-comprehensive genealogical directory. But even at this size, it "barely scratches the surface". As Leverich points out, "Even looking beyond genealogy, Linkpendium is one of the largest human-edited directories to resources on the web". The Linkpendium collection includes over 3.2 million links specialized to genealogical information.

## How To USE IT

Accessing the site, you can choose to search on "Surname" or "Locality" (more categories are being planned). Once you select your desired surname or place, you will get a list of all the associated relevant genealogy links that have been identified by the webmasters

or submitted by users and the total number of links found for the surname or place noted in parentheses. The list also includes the source (online databases, message boards and other key genealogical websites). Of course more common surnames, like "Smith" will have a large number of links (currently 2,119 on Linkpendium). I decided to investigate the links available for my last name, Alzo. The name, with its Slovak origins, is unusual, so I did not anticipate finding many links. I clicked on "Surnames" and scrolled to "Surnames beginning with 'A'" (93,886); then Surnames beginning with: Alz (93). When I get to "Alzo" there are three links listed under "General (not specific to a US location) Surname Information": 1) Maps and Gazetteers: Where were Alzo families living in 1920? (Source: Ancestry.com's 1920 family distribution maps); 2) Miscellaneous Data RootsWeb Site Search for Alzo (Source: RootsWeb) PA Allegheny; and 3) *Three Slovak Women* (my own book): Surnames included: Figlar (Figler, Figlyar); Straka; Alzo (Alsio); Fencak (Source: Genealogical Publishing Company and Clearfield Company). A dollar sign (\$) next to a link means that there is a fee associated with the source. The small number of results did not really surprise me and gives me a clue that I will need to also explore other, more traditional sources. Next, I tried the locality search. I used Pennsylvania (17,393); Allegheny County (669) For example, Cemeteries of Allegheny County (Interment.net) Mailing Lists and Message Boards (33), Societies (21), etc. There's a lot of "meat" here — many new sources I've not consulted before that will hopefully provide new leads for my research.

### WHY USE IT?

What is the advantage to using Linkpendium? Isn't using a search engine such as Google just easier?

According to Leverich, when you do a Google search for surnames and places, often about 90 percent of the results are unrelated to genealogy — you get too much of the "wrong stuff". Even if you put in key words such as "genealogy" or "family history", while you knock off some of the unwanted results, you still don't get in deep enough to the "good info", including biographies, family genealogies, oral histories, diaries, memoirs and the like. Leverich noticed

this while searching for his own ancestors, attempting to find the "meat behind the bones". He also added that many genealogists (especially newbies) don't know how to phrase an advanced Google query — they don't know how to "drill through the chaff to get to the wheat." With

Linkpendium, there's no need to worry about phrasing a query. The site is in Leverich's words, "definitive", in that it is "the best single place to go for links to locality and surname information."

Another important facet is the process of link validation. According to Leverich, when you visit other sites that contain large number of links, often you find the link has moved or no longer exists and typically the broken links take a long time to fix (if they are ever fixed) because of a reliance on human intervention to detect and correct the problems. Linkpendium utilizes both manual checks and automated link validation to keep their links as up-to-date as possible. But, occasionally you will find broken links on the site if they are in a "waiting period". Leverich says that the first step is that either their spider (computer program) or a human user tells them about a broken link. The second step is to wait awhile, because sometimes things disappear and then reappear. (For example, with Hurricane Katrina there's Gulf Coast genealogy that's disappeared, which they hope will reappear as the area recovers). The third step is that they manually look for the resource. More often than not, a resource doesn't permanently disappear, it just moves to a new URL. It often requires a human editor to uncover where the resource has moved.

### COMPARING LINKPENDIUM WITH OTHER INDEXES

What about a comparison with Cyndi's List, [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)? For years, genealogists have used Cyndi's List — a categorized and cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet — as a free jumping-off point in their online research. The site, started by Cyndi Howells, has been around since March 1996. This "list" began as a one-page set of bookmarks that Cyndi



*An attractive feature of Linkpendium is the ability to enter your last name to see what links are available.*

**According to Leverich, when you do a Google search for surnames and places, often about 90 percent of the results are unrelated to genealogy — you get too much of the "wrong stuff".**

*Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A. is the author of *Three Slovak Women*, *Baba's Kitchen: Slovak & Rusyn Family Recipes and Traditions* and *Finding Your Slovak Ancestors*. Lisa teaches online genealogy courses for MyFamily.com and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. She can be found online at [www.lisaalzo.com](http://www.lisaalzo.com).*



## Linkpendium

shared with fellow genealogical society members — it now contains more than 251,000 links.

While citing the unique characteristics of Linkpendium, Leverich hopes that any good genealogist will utilize both Linkpendium and Cyndi's List to be sure that they are getting the full range of information that is out there on the Internet.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

According to Leverich, Linkpendium is only in its first phase of development. "The second phase will be the implementation of an 'open-source text search engine' running on our own servers. Sort of like a 'Google specialized for genealogists' that will use the Linkpendium directory to identify pages to be included," he says. "We have, for example, the ability to determine that some words are surely (or, at least, probably) surnames. This lets us construct searches that are more likely to return results that are relevant to genealogists," he adds. They basically have prototypes in place, but aren't quite yet ready to open them to the public or set a firm date as to when this will occur. A third phase of Linkpendium's development is planned, but it's still far enough out that they aren't discussing it at this time. Leverich notes, "We do believe it will advance genealogical research at least as much as our creation of RootsWeb advanced the ability of genealogists to communicate with other genealogists."

For now, an average of 100,000 links per month are added to the Linkpendium collection. Users can submit links for addition to the site; these submitted links usually appear on the website within a week or so. The process is simple. Click on the "Submit a link for inclusion on this page!" link. In the box that appears, type the URL, a brief description and your e-mail address (optional). For example, upon viewing the links to societies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Allegheny County), I noticed that there wasn't a link for one of the societies to which I belong as both a member and a sponsor — The Homestead and Mifflin Township Historical Society at [www.hmths.org](http://www.hmths.org). So, I completed the easy online submission form to add the link to the site.

After using Linkpendium myself and speaking with Leverich, I am quite excited about all the new resources out there online that I can use in my own personal family history research. As more researchers learn about the potential of this comprehensive guide, and as the site moves into its second and third phases of development, the genealogical community can expect great things in terms of new and different online resources for finding the "meat behind the bones" of their ancestors.

*Editor's Note: The number of links given in this article were correct as of 1 February 2006. They may well have changed by the time you read this.*

IG

**Relative Genetics**  
Make your past > your present > to the future

**Heritage Generations**

**Genetic Genealogy**

**PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

- \* SURNAME GROUPS
- \* Y CHROMOSOME ANALYSIS
- \* MATERNAL LINE ANALYSIS (mtDNA)
- \* ANCESTRAL ORIGINS (ETHNICITY TESTING)
- \* EXTENDED FAMILY TESTING
- \* CONSULTING—  
PROFESSIONAL & MOLECULAR GENEALOGISTS

**free WORKSHOP & LAB TOUR**

**Genetic Genealogy**

1-800-956-9362

[www.RelativeGenetics.com](http://www.RelativeGenetics.com)

# What You Should Know

IF YOU'RE EVEN a moderately experienced genealogist, skip this article: it's not intended for you. If you are still reading, welcome to genealogy, a hobby that many of us find fascinating. We don't want to put you off by quoting a load of jargon, but every hobby and business has its own terminology and things that experienced participants take for granted. This is a short crash course to explain a few facts and terms that you will need to understand and we throw in a bit of good advice.

**CAN YOU REALLY FIND OUT INFORMATION ON YOUR ANCESTORS, AND ISN'T IT EXPENSIVE TO EVEN TRY?**  
I always tell people if it was impossible or very difficult to research your family tree, few people would even try. If it was really easy, there'd be no need for this magazine or the others on the market.

Expensive? Not a simple answer. I have spent thousands of dollars on my own research. However, I learned probably 95 percent of what I now know spending less than \$100 in total over several years. Like everyone, I have come up against problems, these can take years and a lot of money to solve. I still have numerous questions about my own genealogy. But these have not held up my main research. You may be unwilling or unable to afford lots of money to solve nagging little problems. It is up to you: you can do a lot for very little if that is what you want to do.

## WEB SEARCHING

Most people think that to search for your ancestors it is only necessary to enter a name into Google (or some other search engine). I LOVE Google but, while it may help you sometimes, the reality is that Google does not, nor does it pretend to, index databases. What does this mean, you ask? The vast majority of records of all types, including genealogical records, are held on databases at the host company's website. These records are only accessed when you ask the database, they are not available on web pages as such and Google, bless its heart, can't index them.

An example? Put your own name

into Google. You may or may not get some hits but you will probably not find your phone number or address. Go to Switchboard, Canada411 or other online phone directories and you'll probably find that information.

The information in these directories — or genealogical databases in our case — may be as much as 500 times as great as that presented by Google. Wow!

## COMPILED AND ORIGINAL RECORDS

Here we have to get a bit technical but it is important that you appreciate the difference between these. An original record is pretty obvious — it is an original or exact copy (photocopy, for example) — of a birth certificate, for example. The information is usually supplied by someone who should know it.

If someone makes a list of the names on birth certificates, for example transcribing a church's records, that information is called compiled. Compiled records are useful — the fact that the record has been compiled means that the original probably exists somewhere — but they are subject to many problems. The record may have been transcribed incorrectly; the original may have extra information that is not listed on the compiled record and so on. Most of the records available on the 'net are of the compiled type. If you can get hold a copy of the original you may be surprised — and usually pleasantly. Waiting to acquire an original record is not going to hold up your research. Trust me, it is not being a purist that makes me suggest trying to get hold of originals, it's experience.

## THE MORMONS - FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS - FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

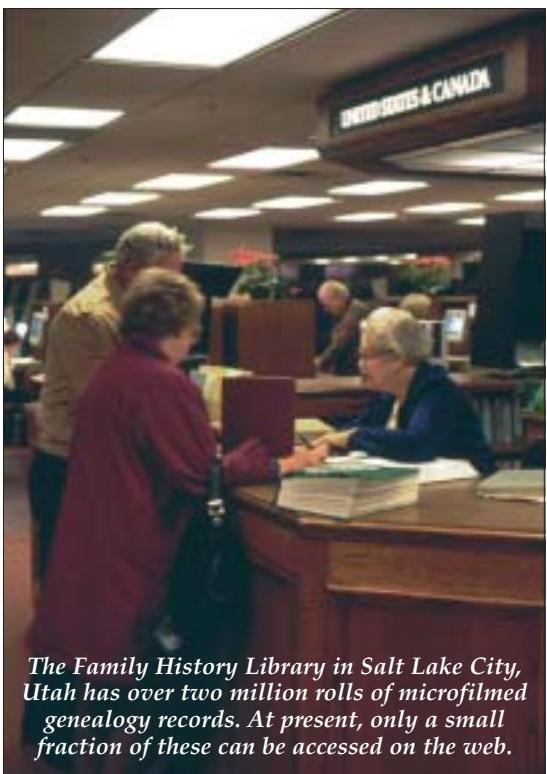
You're not going to get very far into genealogy without coming across the Mormons — or more correctly The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (Disclosure — I am not a mem-

**A short crash course to explain a few facts and terms that you will need to understand.**



*The author's great-great-grandfather. It was the discovery of this unidentified, undated picture in an old family photograph album that began a long — and as yet unfinished — search for Moorshead ancestors.*

## What You Should Know



The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah has over two million rolls of microfilmed genealogy records. At present, only a small fraction of these can be accessed on the web.

**There is never an easy answer to a brickwall problem — after all, it doesn't become a brickwall if it can be solved easily!**

make all these records available to anyone — only a minority of the visitors to the FHL and the FHCs are, in fact, Mormons. Do not be afraid to use their facilities: no one has ever tried to convert me or even talk religion.

The FHL operate an important website for genealogists, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). In addition they have started an ambitious program to put almost all their microfilmed records online (though this will take years to complete).

### BRICKWALLS

We, at *Internet Genealogy*, spell this as a single word — others use two words: brick walls. These are what genealogists call a problem that has beaten them (so far). You'll hear the term a lot. You will find that, at times, your research goes really fast — you may trace several generations in an hour but sooner or later you'll come to a sudden halt. The record you are looking for isn't where you expect to find it.

There may be a hundred reasons for it not being there. It may be misspelled; your ancestors may have thoughtlessly moved to another jurisdiction or the record you are looking for may never have been written down. It may be available but it is not on the Internet (yet). There is no easy answer to a brickwall (it doesn't become a brickwall if it can be solved easily).

ber of this church.) It is part of their faith to research their family's genealogy. To assist with this, they have established the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, Utah which has gathered together a vast number of records from all corners of the globe. This FHL has well over 3,000 branches around the world called Family History Centers (FHC) where large numbers of records may be accessed and where copy microfilm or microfiche of the records held in Utah may be ordered at a nominal sum.

The LDS Church

Most of the time you will spend conducting your genealogy will be overcoming brickwalls. You will learn, as you progress, a mass of tricks which may solve your problem. Remember that thousands of experienced genealogists — many of them very clever — have come across the same problem before and many have overcome it. (Here I can't resist mentioning a couple of books that our company has published called *500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems* and *More Brickwall Solutions*. See [www.familychronicle.com/BrickwallSolutions.html](http://www.familychronicle.com/BrickwallSolutions.html). End of blatant plug.)

### HAS IT BEEN DONE BEFORE?

The further back you go in your research, the more likely it is that you will come across an ancestor who has already been researched by someone else. This raises three questions (at least).

1. How do you connect with other people who have already researched your line?
2. Are they willing to share their research?
3. Can you trust their information if they are willing to share?

Each of these answers deserves an article to itself so here we can only give a simplified answer.

### ALREADY RESEARCHED?

Sometimes it is really easy discovering this. Plug the name you are looking for into Google and see what turns up. But don't just look at Google Web but at Groups (it is just above the search box). This will list and show you e-mails that mention your ancestor. There are also lots of websites that list people — and/or families — who are being researched.

### ARE PEOPLE WILLING TO SHARE?

You may think that people who have already researched your ancestor are going to jump at the chance to give you all the information you need. Yes, there are some wonderfully generous, kind people who will do this. There are others who jealously guard the "family secrets" and would rather have their research buried with them rather than share.

Most people are like myself: I'm happy to give answers to specific questions — but I am not going to give out

## What You Should Know

all of my research. Not because I mind sharing, but my genealogy filing cabinet weighs as much as I do (which is a lot), most of the research is not relevant to the enquirer (and I would have to carefully explain this to them) and I don't see why I should spend hours working on a non-specific query from someone who is not offering anything in return. I don't want their money; I want them to contribute something to the information on the family. Sharing is a two-way activity.

### CAN YOU TRUST THE INFORMATION?

A lot of the information about genealogies that you come across is likely to be wrong. Sorry, but you may as well learn this now rather than later. This applies both to family trees that have been compiled traditionally and those that appear on the Internet.

Most people who get interested in genealogy are interested in the truth — they are not interested in guessing and "stitching" into unrelated family trees. Unfortunately this only applies to "most people". There are enough people who are incredibly sloppy, who guess and make invalid assumptions about who is related to whom. Because they don't care about accuracy, their family trees tend to be much longer than carefully researched lines, making the sloppy ones appear much more interesting (at first).

Even genuine researchers who try to be correct make mistakes. I am responsible for a serious error that I submitted to an online site almost a decade ago. That company added my erroneous family tree to a CD (with thousands of other lines); that information is now being sold to subscribers to a subscription website. The publisher of the CD and the operator of the website have no way to correct the errors — and so it gets perpetuated.

The information that you are given may or may not be true. The hard part is knowing which. Your best course is to try to confirm as much as you can for yourself. We are not being purists here.

### GOOD HABITS

I wish someone had lectured me on a couple of good habits early in my genealogy quest. The most important, by far, is noting down, next to your information, the source of that information. I guarantee that you will not be able to remember all the sources and, if you do not note them, that you will spend hours and hours looking up records that you have visited before, or searching through those records to see if this was the source.

I promise you that I am right on this. And every experienced genealogist will back me up.

The second habit is learning how to write dates. 6/7/92 is a lousy way to notate a date. In the US it may mean June 7, in the rest of the world, including Canada, it will probably mean 6 July — and what does the 92 mean? 1992, 1892, 1792? Maybe you don't care about other people but, for a start, this is not very polite and, unless you are Native-American, your ancestors came from countries where almost certainly different conventions are used. The genealogical con-

vention is 6 June 1892 (if that is the year) — it is unambiguous and it looks nicer anyway.

The advice I have given here is far from comprehensive: whole books have been written on this subject and, even if you read these, you will not know it all. But I hope I have been able to provide you with some of the guidelines that I wish I had known when I started my own research.

Halvor Moorshead is the Editor and Publisher of *Internet Genealogy*. He has been researching his family roots for over 10 years. Although he has learned a lot during his quest; however, he freely admits there is much he does not know.

IG

### Gordon Hartig Translation Services

*Specializing in Old German Script  
( Specializing in Old German Script )*

P.O. Box 931  
Westford, MA 01886-0030

Web Site: <http://users.erols.com/hartig>  
E-Mail: [hartig@erols.com](mailto:hartig@erols.com)  
Telephone: 978-692-5781

*German, Dutch, or French to English*



*Share Your Heritage ...*

*Photos without stories are memories lost!*



*Bring generations together  
by sharing their stories...  
Become an author today!*

*It's easy to create your own book. Just upload your photos, choose a template, write the story, and receive your very own book in the mail!*

- ✓ *Hardcovered Library Bound*
- ✓ *Personalized Covers, Text and Photos*
- ✓ *Archival Quality Paper*

*Visit my website to see all the  
wonderful things you can do  
with your heritage and photos*

*801-221-1516*



*[www.Scrapless.com](http://www.Scrapless.com)*

*Distributionships Available!*

# Successful Searching Strategies

**Wondering how to get the most out of the Internet when it comes to searching for those ancestors? We asked a panel of genealogy experts for their secret strategies...**

"ONE PIECE OF advice is to really play with a site. Don't be timid. You can't break them and the bolder you are, the more tricks you'll learn to help you surface your 'prey' more quickly. I find sites centered outside of North America to be the most innovative of late, and they often have built-in tools and search abilities that many ignore. Take the time to learn these bells and whistles and your research will benefit.

I also frequently use multiple sites simultaneously and it's not unusual for me to have seven or eight browser screens open — sometimes even for the same information. Because content and functionality (not to mention transcriptions and indexes) vary so widely, I can often find what I'm looking for in one place more easily than another. For instance, it's not at all unusual for me to

new site or feature that's just what you need at that particular moment. I've had that happen twice in just the last month with a documentary I'm working on. And I sporadically revisit sites I haven't had cause to use for a while just to see what's new. So many resources have been indexed over the last year or so that what was previously inaccessible due to sheer volume may now be easy to search, thanks to a freshly created index.

A few personal favorites? Newspaper sites have come on very strong over the last couple of years and you can gain access to some of the best collections at Godfrey Memorial Library ([www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org)), a genealogical bargain if there ever was one. I also find myself turning to Joe Beine's [www.deathindexes.com](http://www.deathindexes.com) time and time again."

— Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

"I do quite a lot of searching on the Internet, both for my job as Publisher of *Family Chronicle* and *Internet Genealogy* and conducting my own genealogy.

I am very lucky in one way, in that the name I am usually searching Moorshead (or Morshead) is rare and if I find a record I know that it is a member of my extended family. Few people have this certainty when they are searching.

My tips are not what to do if you find the name but what to do if you can't find it. With records that are made up from the original document and an index, you frequently find that the index takes you to an image that does not include the name you are looking for. Don't despair, it will often be on the one before or the one after. I don't know why this happens but it is common.

Another tip is to search often. Two of the most important pieces of genealogical information I have found on the Internet have been added in the last year. One was the complete UK 1871 census where I had never been able to find my great-grandfather. I had searched several possible locations, all without luck. When this census was posted online by Ancestry.com, I found



search for the same census record at both Ancestry.com and through the Heritage Quest collection (via NYGBS). I've also pulled the same digitized image from another site when the first one is hard to read. It may be that the original is in poor shape, but you'd be surprised how often it's the scanning that's to blame.

I subscribe to countless genealogical newsletters because you never know which one will be the first to mention a

## Successful Searching Strategies

him right away he was serving on HMS *Lapwing* which was, on the day the census was taken, moored at Kingston, Jamaica! Without this index, I would never have found him.

Two or three times a year, I put my last name into Google to see what turns up. When this search engine was first available it offered me 400 or so hits. Today, it is over 12,000! During the last year, someone kindly posted the text of a number of wills from Cornwall from the late 1600s. A witness to one of these was the widow of my ancestor Arthur Morshead: that in itself was not exciting but it gave the additional information that he came from the village of St. Teath in Cornwall, information that my father, my brother and myself had been searching for years.

So, the information you seek may be close to where you are looking (in the case of a series of images) or it has been added only recently.

— Halvor Moorshead

"When searching Internet databases, I find that I have the most success when I search for the most unusual name in the family I'm interested in. For example, a recent project I was working on included a family with a common surname. The parents and most of the children also had common names, but one of the children had a very rare name: Dolena. So I started my search looking for Dolena. This way I narrowed the possible matches down to just two, rather than the hundreds I'd have found if I'd used either of the parents' names, and quickly identified the correct family.

Another strategy with common names is to add specific locations. I was recently looking for information on a William Perkins whose family seemed to move around a lot. Obviously Googling 'William Perkins' was going to produce way too many hits, but by adding the known locations ("William Perkins" + Scarborough, "William Perkins" + Markham, and "William Perkins" + Saint John, New Brunswick) I eventually had success, finding him listed in the Migrations Project ([www.migrations.org](http://www.migrations.org)), having moved to Wayne County, Michigan.

Also, when using Google, instead of just searching for your great-grandfather's name, try searching for combinations of names, such as his name plus his wife's name, or his name and those of his known children, or even, his name

plus the names of witnesses you've found in other documents.

Finally, the Internet is like a vast library. If you think beyond your specific family, to the context of your ancestors' lives, you will find the Internet very useful in expanding your knowledge of the background information you need to know to search more effectively.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Migrations Project. At the top, there's a banner with the word 'MIGRATIONS' in large letters. Below the banner, a message reads: 'They came for a reason, they left and never returned? Why did they go and who went with them? So many questions about the Migration of our ancestors.' There are several search boxes and buttons labeled 'SEARCH'. In the center, a red button says 'Add your family' to make the international database even bigger and better! Below that, there's an 'FAQ for Using Migrations' link. A note says 'It's working again!' followed by 'After a long while of not working right, the database is now functioning again. Don't be surprised if there's not a complete overhaul in the near future to add even more functionality. I hope you enjoy your search.' On the right, there's a section titled 'Migrations State Links' with a grid of state names:

Alabama Wendy Heath	Alaska Mary Hartman	Arkansas Sandy Hecht	Arizona Barbara Whiting
California Matthew A. Johnson	Colorado Matthew A. Johnson	Connecticut Linda Miles	Delaware Katherine Hartman
District Of Columbia Athen Baker	Florida Jeff Miller Jeffrey Miller	Georgia Gloria Tait Norton	Hawaii Tracy Tolman
Hawaii Florence Gause Heath	Illinois C.C. Fleischmann and L.L. Wessell	Indiana Patrick Hayes	Iowa Michael Heath

For example, if you find a marriage record for an ancestor, try searching for the minister's name using Google, or one of the many databases for clergy of specific religious denominations and regions. If you can find out where the minister served over the course of his career, you may have a clue for where to look for more records of the family. It was this kind of connection that helped a client of mine understand his ancestors' move to Whitby, Ontario from St. Armand, Quebec. It turns out that the family followed their minister when he moved from one parish to the next. — Janice Nickerson

"It may sound morbid, but one of my favorite haunts on the Internet is the mortality schedules for the 1850-80 censuses. These indexes enumerated the deaths that occurred in the year before the census was taken and only exist for these four US census years. They list the person's name, age, sex, occupation, cause of death, date and place of death by county. Birth place of parents was added in 1870.

Though limited in time span, these indexes are a valuable source, particularly in those states where vital records were not kept in that time period. As an

Janice Nickerson had success with finding an elusive ancestor on the Migration Project's website, shown above.

**"It may sound morbid, but one of my favorite haunts on the Internet is the mortality schedules for the 1850-80 censuses."**

## Successful Searching Strategies

**"The Internet is still new enough that we're just beginning to discover and appreciate ways to exploit its potential."**

example, the 1850 index revealed the birthplace of my third-great-grandfather, John Sears. He was not found in the census until 1810 in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, though he was on tax lists as early as 1798. From his tombstone, I knew his year of birth and date of death. Because his wife was born in the area where they lived, I thought he was too.

When Ancestry.com put the first mortality schedules online, I discovered that my John Sears died in April 1850 at the age of 73 in Northumberland County of phthisis (disease of the lungs). And, most important, that he was born in the state of Delaware. I now have a major clue in seeking to identify his parents. Ancestry is in the process of adding records for more states, including links to the actual microfilm image.

In the past, it was necessary to undertake the grueling process of going page by page through microfilmed censuses and not all available versions included the mortality schedules. Internet access with search features makes the task so much easier and less daunting. In addition to determining birthplace, these schedules are useful in revealing possibly hereditary diseases, migration issues and documenting race, an important feature for those with Native or African American ancestry. With the information provided it is possible to do more focused searches for obituaries, probate records and family connections." — John Richard Lindermuth

"The Internet is still new enough that we're just beginning to discover and appreciate ways to exploit its potential. I try to use as many approaches as possible. Sometimes we find information; other times we find ways to find information. I became interested in finding out about a relative who lived in Saratoga Springs, New York, around 1900. The Internet led me to the county historian's office. A volunteer there searched nine databases and found 168 pages of documents.

In addition to active searching, I've used passive 'trolling' for information. That's where you 'broadcast' your information needs, e.g., by posting requests for information on bulletin boards and list servers. A great example is an article I wrote for *Family Chronicle* in which I showed four family pictures taken in a photographer's studio in Czernowitz,

Bukowina, Romania (now Ukraine). I had never heard of Czernowitz before finding those photos in my mother's collection. I explained in my article how I deduced I must have had relatives in or near Czernowitz, otherwise there would have been no reason for the family to visit that city. An amateur historian in Trieste, Italy, searched the Internet looking for the surname Nagler and was led to my article because of the photos. He had over 100 letters written during WWII to my mother's first-cousin. Somehow, those letters wound up being sold at an estate auction and the buyer gave them to the historian who shared them with me!" — John M. Hoenig

"There are five search strategies that I use to help improve my search success rate. First and foremost, learn to misspell your ancestors' names! It often seems that no one knew how to spell their names, especially as we go backward to less literate times. Develop a list of alternate spellings and use these regularly with your online searches.

Second, we all know that indexing can be fraught with errors. If you can't find your ancestors using their forename and surname, reverse them. Also use initials instead of first and/or use middle names.

Third, when working on the web and in databases, and the person you are seeking had a common surname, do your first search using a forename that is a less common one, if possible. If both the first and the last name are common, try switching to a sibling whose forename is less common. Try to locate one or more siblings and then see if you can connect to your common-named person through records of a family unit.

Next, I often use Google, among other search engines, when I want to really narrow my searches. Google allows you to enter a special term to either specify or exclude a particular web domain. For example, if I want to locate information about immigration from only German websites, I enter my search terms followed with *site:*, immediately followed with the domain name, in this case *.de* for Germany. My search would look like this:

*german immigration site:.de*

I also can use this command to screen out a certain domain by prefacing it with a minus sign. For example, if I want to locate information about Irish emigration but want to exclude British



sites, my search would look like this:

*emigration irish-site:.uk*

Finally, Google offers the facility to narrow your search to sites with numbers within a specific range. This is useful if you want to search the web for sites dealing with a subject where the web pages contain a year. The format you use is the starting number, followed by two dots, and followed by the ending number. An example of a search limited to 1840 to 1855 would look like this:

*dupres marriage ontario 1840..1855*

Be creative with your searches!"

— George G. Morgan

"I use the Internet daily to search for my own family's surnames, assist students in the various online genealogy courses I teach, to locate information for clients who seek my help. Basically, my 'secret search strategy' is a three-step plan that consists of 'Networking', 'Googling' and 'Utilizing'.

Step #1: Networking — I think that one of the most effective ways to use the Internet is to locate and connect with other genealogists all over the world who share your own research interests, whether for a particular surname, ancestral village, time period, etc. I like to scour and post queries to message boards. Last year, I was in search of a Duquesne High School yearbook from 1939 to obtain a photo of a particular individual. I contacted the school, all the libraries in the area and the local historical societies, but none of these places had a copy of this particular yearbook. I came across a posting on a RootsWeb Message Board from a woman who noted that she had this yearbook and was willing to do free look-ups. Within a day of making e-mail contact with this individual, I had a copy of the page desired. People have also networked with me as a result of my having a public website. Last fall I was contacted by Scarlett — a woman who was researching my surname 'Alzo' (in the 15 years I have been doing genealogy, I never encountered anyone else looking for my surname!). She wanted to know if I was related to 'Mihaly Alzo' who arrived in Duquesne, PA in 1895, and if so, would I be willing to exchange information. Mihaly was married to her grandmother's sister, and he was my paternal grandfather's uncle. After a number of e-mail exchanges, Scarlett and I met for coffee one day when I was passing through her town, and now we regularly

## Successful Searching Strategies

keep in touch.

Step #2: Googling — I use Google to search for surnames, places and historical topics. Most recently, while trying to locate information about a coal mining accident that killed my grandfather's brother in the late 1920s, I used Google to search for 'Coal Mine Accidents'. I was taken to a page that listed historical coal mine accidents in the US from 1839 to 1976. I can now search historical newspapers, both online and print versions, from that era for further information. Also, as a result of having my name Googled a few years ago, I was contacted by John Matviya who was searching Google for the Slovak village, 'Milpos'



and found a link to the website for my book, *Three Slovak Women* (Milpos is my maternal grandmother's village). He contacted me by e-mail and since that time we have found a connection in our family tree, have collaborated on research projects and even set up an online genealogical research community of researchers whose ancestors came from Milpos or surrounding villages.

Step #3: Utilizing — I'm a firm believer that as genealogists we should make use of all of the 'reputable' online resources available — both free and pay-for-access sites. I frequently search what I consider the 'biggies': Subscription sites such as [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com) as well as the Godfrey Memorial Library, [www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org). I also like to utilize the following free sites on a regular basis: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), [www.ellisisland.org](http://www.ellisisland.org), [www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org), [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org), [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com), [www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com) and [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com).

**"My secret search strategy is a three step plan that consists of Networking, Googling and Utilizing."**

## Successful Searching Strategies

I repeat this three-step plan often. The Internet is a dynamic medium and genealogy sites/databases are being added and updated all the time. I have bookmarked all of the above sites into a special folder so that I can easily go to them. With this strategy, I can stay on top of my research and quickly add to my successes on a routine basis.

— Lisa A. Alzo

"I have had great success finding old family Bibles, photographs and papers in the possession of distant relatives. Thanks to online census records and directories, it's not usually very hard to locate living people.

Let's say your great-great-grandparents had their pictures taken and recorded their children's births in a family Bible. The pictures and the Bible could have been passed down to any of their descendants, so it's worthwhile for you to track down as many of the descendants as you can.

Census records are a good place to start your search for living relatives. HeritageQuest Online and Ancestry.com both provide online access to US federal census images from 1790 to 1930. HQO's head-of-household indexes are helpful, but Ancestry.com's every-name census indexes make it even easier to find someone.

Once you have worked your way forward to the 1930 census, the most recent year open to the public, you have to turn to other sources. Many people

listed as children in the 1920 and 1930 censuses are still living, so you might find them in free online phone and e-mail directories, such as AnyWho ([www.anywho.com](http://www.anywho.com)), InfoSpace, ([www.infospace.com](http://www.infospace.com)) and Yahoo! People Search, ([people.yahoo.com](http://people.yahoo.com)). The Ultimates, ([www.theultimates.com](http://www.theultimates.com)) provides access to several online directories from one page. Other online directories, such as Intelius, ([find.intelius.com](http://find.intelius.com)), US Search ([www.ussearch.com](http://www.ussearch.com)) (both free) and Ancestry.com's US Public Records Index draw on public records and sometimes list people who don't show up in phone directories.

Google and other search engines are also useful for finding living relatives. Remember to put quotation marks around a name to search on an exact phrase and to search for names with and without middle names and initials. Also try nicknames and putting the last name first.

Among my more interesting discoveries in the possession of distant relatives was an ancestor's 1788 lease to a farm in Wales, written on parchment in a beautiful script. Another relative had Civil War-era photographs of our immigrant ancestors from Scotland. By tracking down distant relatives, you might find family pictures and manuscripts unavailable anywhere else. — Rick Crume

**"Thanks to online census records and directories, it's not usually very hard to locate living people."**



### THE PANEL:

**Lisa Alzo** is the author of *Three Slovak Women, Baba's Kitchen: Slovak & Rusyn Family Recipes and Traditions* and the recently published *Finding Your Slovak Ancestors*, as well as articles for genealogy magazines.

**Rick Crume** is the author of *Plugging Into Your Past: How to Find Real Family History Records Online*.

**John M. Hoenig** is a professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and an avid genealogist. When he's not researching his own family history, John works on computerizing archival records from his family's ancestral towns.

**John Richard Lindermuth** is librarian of the Northumberland County Historical Society, Sunbury PA, where he assists visitors with research and genealogy. A retired newspaper editor, John also writes for various magazines and is the author of three novels.

**Halvor Moorshead** is the Editor of *Internet Genealogy* and is actively researching his own roots. He has had two major brickwalls in his family tree, one of which was recently solved by finding records on the Internet. He continues to hope that he will solve the second in the same way (traditional research methods and several thousand dollars have not helped so far).

**George G. Morgan** is the author of numerous books and articles about genealogy. He speaks at conferences and is the current president of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (ISFHWE) and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG).

**Janice Nickerson** is a professional genealogist based in Toronto, Canada. Her website is [www.uppercanadagenealogy.com](http://www.uppercanadagenealogy.com)

**Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak** is co-author (with Ann Turner) of *Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree*, Megan is can be reached via [www.genetealogy.com](http://www.genetealogy.com).

*In the current issue of*

# Family Chronicle

## Ships of Our Ancestors:



We show you where to find information about, and pictures of, the ships that brought our ancestors to North America.

## 20th-Century Desperate Housewives!

Marital distress, inappropriate sexual conduct, drunken rages and fights. Unemployment, financial woes, children dealing with step-parents, men taking out frustrations on wives and children, premature death and... murder?

No, not TV's *Desperate Housewives*, but the lives of six "desperate" women of another era — housewives living in the small town of Duquesne, Pennsylvania in 1936. It's amazing what you can find out about your family history!



## 25 Ways to Discover a Parent-Child Link:

Birth certificates aren't the only way to prove parentage. Janice Nickerson describes 25 other records and techniques that can be used to identify and document your ancestral connections.

## Death Records Online:

There are a surprising number of ways that you can search for death records online: the SSDI, obituaries, death notices, cemetery records, vital records and so on. In our next issue we describe how to set about finding them.

## Revisiting Genealogy Records:

Emily Croom shows us the importance of reviewing your records.



*The features mentioned here are planned for future issues. However, circumstances may affect the final content.*

# Family Chronicle

*The Magazine for Families Researching their Roots*

- Phone Toll-Free **1-888-326-2476**. Please have your credit card ready.
- Subscribe online through our secure server: [www.familychronicle.com](http://www.familychronicle.com)
- Mail to: See US and Canadian addresses on page 5.

Please use this form when ordering at this special rate.

### I want to subscribe for:

- One year (6 issues) at \$27 US / \$32 Cdn    Two years (12 issues) at \$45 US / \$50 Cdn  
Payment by:  Check (enclosed) Charge my Credit Card:  Visa  MasterCard

Canadian orders add 7% GST or 15% HST as applicable. Quebec residents add 7.5% QST.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

*Family Chronicle* does not rent or sell subscriber names.

Use any of these three convenient ways to subscribe:

## Guarantee

There is no risk. If *Family Chronicle* fails to meet your needs, or live up to the promises we have made, you are entitled to a refund on all unmailed copies for any reason or no reason. Any refund will be made promptly and cheerfully.

Halvor Moorshead  
Editor & Publisher

# Top Places to Begin Your Research

JANICE NICKERSON describes 27 websites that you might want to add to your "favorites" list in your browser. Several of the sites appear in more than one category.

Janice will recommend additional sites in the next issue.

## GENERAL HOW-TO SITES

If you're a beginner in genealogy as well as the Internet, you'll want to start by visiting some general interest how-to sites. Here are four great places to start.

### 1. Family History Library Website

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' family history



website is probably the most helpful all-around free website. On this site you will find links to their library catalogue, record indexes and research guides, all of which are essential starting points for genealogists researching almost anywhere in the world.

If you're new to genealogy, start by clicking on "Library", "Education" and then "Research Guidance". From there you can choose a place name (country, state, province, etc.) and be taken to a list of subjects that will get you started with virtually any type of record or subject.

### 2. About.com's Genealogy Site

<http://genealogy.about.com>

Another great place to start, with hundreds, maybe thousands, of helpful articles and tips, is the About.com genealogy site. Here you'll find advice on all kinds of genealogical topics including



product reviews for books and software. Some links take you to articles written by the host of the site, others will take you off-site to other places on the Internet, but all are well-chosen and helpful.

### 3. Ancestry.com

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Ancestry is best known as a database site, but it's also an online library. You can find thousands of articles and tips by choosing "Learning Center" from the main page, and then mid-way down the Learning Center page you'll find a link for "Ancestry Library". This will take you to a list of topics: How-to, Preserving Family History, Record Sources, Home Sources, Family Origins, Religion, Technology, Genealogy Products,



Organizations, Current Events, Geography and Historical Context. You can spend days working your way through these pages and learning about all the various facets of genealogy (although it is mostly North America focused).

### 4. Genealogy.com

[www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)

Another great place to learn about

genealogy and the Internet is Genealogy.com where you'll find free online genealogy classes including those tailored to beginners or advanced researchers, as well as a fascinating archive of Ask the Expert and Message



Board Query Answers written by a professional genealogist answering a wide variety of genealogical questions.

## NON-US HOW-TO SITES

As most of the major all-around sites are America-focused, a few good places to start your non-American family history seems in order.

### 5. Canadian Genealogy Centre

[www.genealogy.gc.ca](http://www.genealogy.gc.ca)

For Canada, a good place to start is the relatively new Canadian Genealogical Centre run by Library and Archives Canada. There you'll find a good summary of the major Canadian record sources, with descriptions, and links to relevant websites and databases and references to helpful publications. These are organized both by subject and by province. The site also includes several databases and digitized



## Top Places to Start Your Research

images including census, military and land records.

### 6. GENUKI

[www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)

For the United Kingdom and Ireland, the best place to start is



the GENUKI hierarchy of websites. This network of sites is organized geographically with descriptive information at every level from country to county to parish, and detailed references to source material, both online and off. This is one of the earliest genealogy information networks and it is well-developed and easy to follow.

### 7. ProGenealogists Resources

[www.progenealogists.com/resources.htm](http://www.progenealogists.com/resources.htm)

On their website, ProGenealogists, a professional genealogical research company, offers helpful articles about a wide variety of topics, with especially good concentrations in European research,



plus a great guide to source citations and a very useful list of links to online vital record databases for American states (both free and subscription based).

### 8. German Roots

<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/>  
If you're an American researching German ancestors, this site's for

you. Here you'll find advice for finding clues in US sources, as well as how to search records in Germany, with many links to database sites.

### IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Once you've traced your family's history back to the immigrant ancestor, you will want to find out how and when he or she arrived in North America (assuming you or your ancestor is North American, of course).

#### 9. Ellis Island

<http://Ellisisland.org>

The largest database of immigrants to North America is the database of Ellis Island, found on the American Family Immigration History Center's website. Here you can search for over 22 million passengers and members of ships' crews who entered the United States through Ellis Island and the Port of New York between 1892 and 1924. If you find your ancestor in the database, you can then order a copy of the relevant ship's



manifest page or pages, and learn about the ship, often including images of the ships, and read about the immigrant experience.

#### 10. Castle Garden

[www.castlegarden.org/](http://www.castlegarden.org/)

If your ancestor arrived before 1892, the chances are good that he or she came through Castle Garden. A brand new searchable database to the records of Castle Garden is now available online. At [castlegarden.org](http://castlegarden.org) you can search for over 10 million immigrants who arrived at the New York port between 1830 and 1892.

Information in the database is taken from the original ships' manifests and provides occupa-



tion, age, sex, date of arrival, place of origin and ship name.

### 11. Canadian Genealogy Centre - Databases

[www.genealogy.gc.ca](http://www.genealogy.gc.ca)



For immigrants to Canada who arrived between 1925 and 1935 (500,000), were naturalized between 1915 and 1932 (200,000) or who came to Canada from Britain as Home Children in the 1860s to 1930s, you'll want to check out the databases available through Library and Archives Canada's Canadian Genealogy Centre. Each of these three databases is searchable by name.

### CENSUS SITES

One of the first things any new genealogist learns (at least in North America and the UK), is that census records are a fantastic way to learn about an ancestral family, as they provide a glimpse at an entire household at a particular point in history. Many census records are available online in various forms, from heads of household indexes to full transcripts to digitized images of the original enumerator's pages.

### 12. LDS Family History Library

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

As mentioned above, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints have created and made

## Top Places to Start Your Research

freely available index/transcripts for the 1880/1881 censuses of United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. These can be easily searched and are a great starting point for quickly locating late-19th century ancestors.

### 13. Library and Archives Canada — ArchiviaNet

[www.collectionscanada.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.ca)

The Canadian government, through its national library and archives website, has provided (free) digital images of the national census of 1901 and 1911 and the western provinces census of 1906. These are not indexed, so can only be searched by electoral district (but see below). Start by clicking on "ArchiviaNet" and then you can choose which census you wish to search (plus a wide variety of other databases and records).



There is also an index to the heads of households and strays in Ontario in 1871 (but no images for this).

### 14. Automated Genealogy

[www.automatedgenealogy.com](http://www.automatedgenealogy.com)

This site provides free transcripts (volunteer-created) of the first three columns of information (surname, given name, age) from the Canadian national census of 1901



(complete) and the western provinces census of 1906 (about 40

percent complete). Each transcribed page also has a link to the image of the page on the Library and Archives Canada website (see above) so you can see the entire original page once you've found your ancestral family. Also watch for new developments as they have started transcribing the 1911 census.

### 15. FreeCen

<http://freecen.rootsweb.com>

FreeCen is one of a group of UK sites aiming to provide free indexes online. This site aims to provide free indexes to all of the 19th century UK census records (1841-1891). This is a volunteer-based project, and transcription is ongoing. Scotland seems to be nearly complete for 1841, Cornwall is complete for 1841 and 1891,



Bedfordshire and Devon are complete for 1891.

### 16. Census Finder

[www.censusfinder.com](http://www.censusfinder.com)

This is a huge, well-organized set



of links to free census indexes, transcripts and images including the US, UK, Canada, Norway and Sweden. It is very easy to use and is a good place to check for free indexes before paying to access census records elsewhere.

### 17. Ancestry.com

The largest collection of online census indexes, transcripts and images can be found at the subscription site Ancestry.com. They have virtually all of the available federal censuses for the US (both images and indexes), plus images and indexes for the UK from 1861 to 1901, and miscellaneous indexes for other locations.

### 18. Genealogy.com

This subscription site has images for all the US censuses (1790-1930), plus heads of households indexes for the 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1860, 1870, 1900, and 1910 censuses.

### 19. Scotland's People

[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

For Scottish censuses, the best source is the website of the General Register Office for Scotland. This site offers access on a pay-for-use basis (you purchase



page-view credits) to images of the 1871, 1891 and 1901 censuses (fully indexed), plus transcripts of the 1881 census. They are also in the process of adding the 1841, 1851 and 1861 censuses.

### 20. 1901 Online UK

[www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

This pay-for-use site offers images and indexes to the 1901 census of England and Wales.

### 21. British Origins

[www.britishorigins.com](http://www.britishorigins.com)

Here you'll find images and indexes for the UK censuses of 1841 and 1871. These are still in progress and currently 14 counties are available for 1841, and seven counties are available for 1871. Other records available on this site include wills, apprenticeship

## Top Places to Start Your Research



records and marriage record transcripts.

### 22. 1837Online

[www.1837online.com](http://www.1837online.com)



Another British site, 1837Online offers access (pay-per-view) to indexes and images of virtually all of the 1861 census for England and Wales (it is not quite complete as yet, but will be shortly).

## COMPILED FAMILY TREES

If you want to find other people who may be searching the same family as you are, or benefit from the research previously done by others, you may want to try searching online compiled family trees. These are submitted to the various sites below by people like you and me who have done some research into their own families. You need to exercise caution in using these databases, because much of the information is not supported by documentation, and hence, there's no way to check its veracity.

### 23. Ancestral File

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was the first to gather family trees compiled by individual members and put them all into one big searchable database. If you find your ancestors listed in the Ancestral File, you



can then try to contact the submitter to share further information (assuming they haven't moved since they submitted the data, which could have been many years ago).

### 24. MyTrees

[www.mytrees.com](http://www.mytrees.com)



This collection of over 100,000 member-submitted databases has a total of over one billion names. Some of the databases include documentation, but most do not. You can pay for access to the databases by submitting a GEDCOM file of your own family tree records.

### 25. World Family Tree

[www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)

One of the subscription databases



available at genealogy.com is the World Family Tree, a collection of 270,000 trees and over 200 million names submitted by others. These are also available on CD-ROMs.

### 26. One World Tree

[www.ancestry.com/trees/](http://www.ancestry.com/trees/)



Ancestry's One World Tree is another collection of user-submitted family tree databases. This one includes a tab for sources, some with links to the actual records in which the information was found, and a tab for submitters, so you can contact the person who submitted the information.

### 27 WorldConnect

[worldconnect.rootsweb.com](http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com)



The WorldConnect Project is one of the many projects taken on by the folks at RootsWeb. Like other user-submitted pedigree databases, it is searchable by name and results will show you links to other relatives, etc., with information about the submitter, so you can contact him or her. One nice feature is the ability to attach "post-em"s to other people's trees, with additional information or corrections.

I will be recommending more websites in the next issue of *Internet Genealogy*.



*Janice Nickerson is a professional genealogist based in Toronto, Canada. Her website is [www.uppercanadagenealogy.com](http://www.uppercanadagenealogy.com).*

IG

**Celebrating Family History, An Anthology of Prize-winning Stories Sponsored by the Southern California Genealogical Society.** Beth Maltbie Uyehara. 2005, 5½x8½, paper, index, 284 pp. This anthology demonstrates the variety of ways in which a family history can be recorded and preserved. U4084 - \$25.00

**Waifs, Foundlings, and Half-Orphans: Searching for America's Orphan Train Riders.** Mary Ellen Johnson. 2005, 5½x8½, paper, index, 102 pp. Two brief, but moving, first-hand accounts precede an examination of the impact of mass migration; orphanages and institutions; and research and resources. References and a reading list add to the value of this work. J0955 - \$17.50

**To the Front and Back: A West Virginia Marine Fights World War I.** Thomas Bryan McQuain. 2005, 5½x8½, paper, 280 pp. The author survived some of the worst battles of the war before returning to Gilmer County, West Virginia. He was an astute observer of both places and people, and his keen eye is reflected in his narrative. Vintage photographs and picture postcards enhance the text. M3148 - \$29.00

**The Diaries of John Hunton, Made to Last, Written to Last, Sagas of the Western Frontier.** Michael Griske. (2005), 2006, 5½x8½, paper, 164 pp. Daily diary entries from 1873 through 1888, enhanced with narratives and commentaries that clarify and expand upon significant events. Contains exploits of Old West characters such as Wild Bill Hickok, Buffalo Bill Cody and others, most of whom were personally known by Hunton. G3804 - \$22.00

**Genealogical Abstracts of Edgefield, South Carolina Equity Court Records.** Carol Wells. (2002), 2005, 5½x8½, paper, index, 92 pp. Equity records are a rich source of genealogical facts. Although one suit concerns a transaction made in 1736, most fall between 1790 and 1820. W2100 - \$14.50

**United Confederate Veterans of Limestone and Freestone Counties, Texas, Joe Johnston Camp, No. 94, Minute Book 1 and 2.** Patricia Bennett McGinty. (2001), 2005, 8½x11, paper, index, 138 pp. Rosters of ex-Confederates of Limestone County; camp minutes; lists of living Confederate Veterans and Confederate widows (1926); possible Civil War veterans buried in Limestone County; and more. M1989 - \$24.50

**Map: Ireland just before the English Invasion.** Reproduction Map, 8½x11, linen paper, color. Shows the boundaries of Ulster, Connaught, Meath, Munster and Leinster. MP0470 - \$5.00

**Map: Scotland in 1290.** Reproduction Map, 8½x11, linen paper, color. Shows Scotia, Gallowedia, and the Highlands. MP0440 - \$5.00

**Those Gallant Men of the Twenty-Eighth Alabama Confederate Infantry Regiment.** James H. Walker and Robert Curren. (1997), 2005, 5½x8½, paper, index, 398 pp. A thorough listing of 1,648 men in the 28th Alabama Confederate Infantry Regiment during the Civil War, and vividly describes their lives before, during and after the conflict. W0740 - \$33.00

**Map: The Colonies of North America at the Declaration of Independence.** Reproduction Map, 8½x11, linen paper, color. Provincial and state boundaries of the period. MP0452 - \$5.00

**CD: The Library of American Biography: Volumes 1 to 10.** Jared Sparks. (1854), 2005, CD, Graphic Images, Searchable, Adobe Acrobat, v6, CD & Mac, 4599 pp. Ten volumes contain biographies of twenty-six prominent citizens, including Ethan Allen, Captain John Smith, Lucretia Maria Davidson, and Henry Hudson. Each volume also includes a list of all twenty-six names plus a general index for all ten volumes. CD2579 - \$39.95

**Newspaper Abstracts from "The Hoosier State", Newport, Vermillion County, Indiana, January 3, 1878 to December 31, 1879.** Carolyn Schwab. 2005, 8½x11, paper, index, 262 pp. S0967 - \$46.50

**1890 Special Census of the Civil War Veterans of the State of Maryland, Volume V, Parts I and II, Baltimore City.** L. Tilden Moore. 2005, 8½x11, paper, index, 2 vols., 614 pp. A substitute for the missing 1890 U.S. Census. Contains name, highest rank held, organization, length of service, address, disability and remarks. M3303 - \$86.00

**Map: Boston Back Bay in 1814.** Reproduction Map, 8½x11, linen paper. A reproduction of the Fuller and Whitney map of 1814. Includes portions of Brookline, Roxbury, Boston neck, Cambridge Bay, Roxbury Flats and Easterly Channel. MP0210 - \$3.00

**CD: Old Landmarks and Historic Fields of Middlesex [Massachusetts].** Samuel Adams Drake. (1895), 2006, Graphic Images, Searchable, Adobe Acrobat, v6, PC and Mac, 458 pp. The author takes the reader down Colonial highways, recounts traditions and discusses men and events, concentrating on places and people made famous by the events of the Revolution. CD2716 - \$15.95

**Proud to Say I am a Union Soldier: The Last Letters Home from Federal Soldiers Written During the Civil War, 1861-1865.** Franklin R. Crawford. 2004, 5½x8½, paper, index, 272 pp. This unique volume contains the final correspondence written by brave soldiers who did not survive the Civil War. C3189 - \$29.50

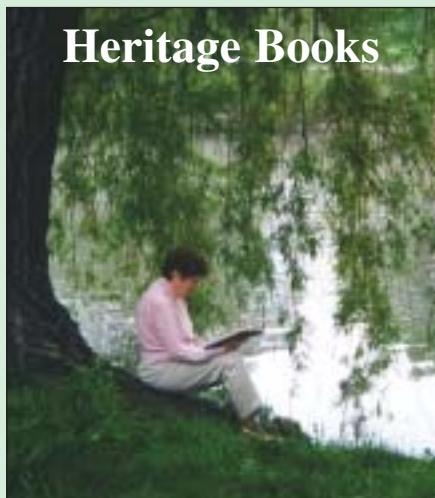
**American Prisoners of War Held at Halifax, During the War of 1812, Volume I and II.** Harrison Scott Baker. (2004), 2005, 8½x11, paper, 2 vols., 592 pp. Transcribed from records of the British Admiralty pertaining to American prisoners of war held at Halifax, Nova Scotia, from June 1812 to April 1815. B3323 - \$63.00

**Hard Time in Concord, New Hampshire: The Crimes, the Victims, and the Lives of the State Prison Inmates, 1812-1883 (Book & CD).** Milli S. Knudsen. 2005, 6x9, paper, index, 560 pp and CD. The prisoners, where they came from, what put them behind bars, and what happened to them and their victims. CD contains the original database of all 2,100 prisoners. K3285 - \$50.00

**Town of Wilmington, Essex County, New York, Transcribed Serial Records, Volume 8, Dr. E. A. Robinson's Receipt Book, 1881-1882.** Harold E. Hinds, Jr., Tina Didreckson and Janet Pederson. 2005, 6x9, paper, index, 172 pp. Entries include date, page number, treatment, patient's name, payment, and amount. H0958 - \$22.00

**Map: Indian Territory, Westchester County, New York, 1609.** Reproduction Map, 8½x11, linen paper. West Chester under the Mohegan Indians in 1609 compiled for Bolton's History of West Chester. MP0201 - \$3.00

**A History of Rowan County, North Carolina.** Reverend Jethro Rumple. (1881), 2005, 5½x8½, paper, index, 428 pp. R1203 - \$32.50



Historical and Genealogical Source Material

We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express.

Add \$4.00 for US Media Mail for first item plus \$1.50 for each additional item (\$6.00 for UPS or Priority Mail plus \$2.00 for each additional item).

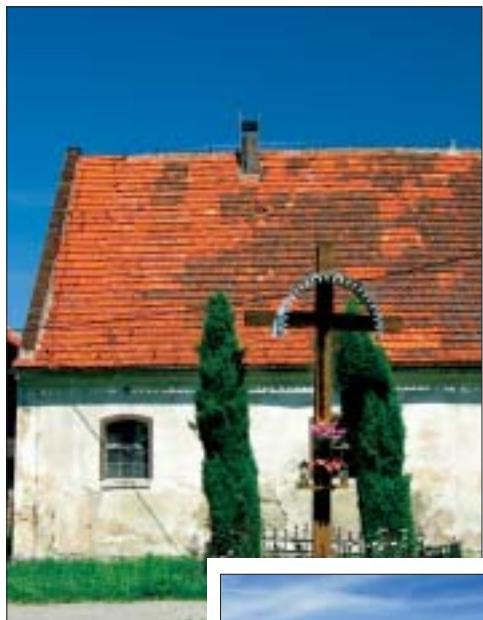
Maryland residents add 5% sales tax.

Heritage Books, 65 E. Main St.  
Westminster, MD 21157  
1-800-876-6103

Order online!  
[www.HeritageBooks.com](http://www.HeritageBooks.com)  
[www.WillowBendBooks.com](http://www.WillowBendBooks.com)

# Top 10 Websites for Polish Genealogy

POLISH GENEALOGY CAN BE complicated simply because the history of Poland is complicated. As a country, Poland did not officially exist on a map for 123 years. Because the country was partitioned by its more powerful neighbors, Polish immigrants came to the United States and Canada from Austria, Russia or Germany. Researchers looking for their German or Prussian roots may be surprised to find that their ancestor's homeland is Poland. Thanks to the Internet, there are several useful websites to lead researchers down the right path and to help sort out the complex history of the country.



Rural Polish villages and churches, like those shown here, are an integral part of Polish genealogy.



## 1. PolandGenWeb

[www.rootsweb.com/~polwgp/polandgen.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgp/polandgen.html)  
As part of the WorldGenWeb Project, affiliated with Rootsweb, PolandGenWeb is one of the largest sites devoted to Polish genealogy. There are numerous resources on over 150 websites, including basic research pages that are quite useful to beginners. The "Help Pages" include tutorials for research in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and also the basics of begin-

ning your research in Poland once you identify your immigrant's home town. There are several pages dealing with the history of Poland and its border changes, including identifying where towns are now as the province boundaries have changed a few times in recent history.

PolandGenWeb also has pages with tips on translating the various languages that records were recorded in, including Latin, Polish, Russian and German. There are also some pages with transcriptions of vital records that have been submitted by fellow researchers. The highlight of the project is that each of Poland's 16 provinces has its own page that is accessible by a clickable map on the main PolandGenWeb page. Each province page offers additional information that is specific to the region, including links to towns' websites, the region's history, links to other researchers' web pages and message boards.

Overall, PolandGenWeb is an invaluable resource that is frequently updated. This is the place to begin your journey to Poland in search of your ancestors.

## 2. PolishRoots

[www.polishroots.com](http://www.polishroots.com)

PolishRoots overlaps with PolandGenWeb with some information, but it is a very useful website with its own unique features that should not be missed. Researchers should first visit the SurnameSearch, which allows users to register a particular surname of interest. You can quickly browse the registered surnames and discover others who are researching the same names, and perhaps even the same family.

One of the best features of PolishRoots is its listing of translated entries from the *Slownik Geograficzny*, a 19th-century Polish gazetteer that provides detailed information about the towns in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. There are several other specialized databases on the site, including school registers and city

## Top Polish Websites

directories. While the subjects are limited, it is always worthwhile to search.

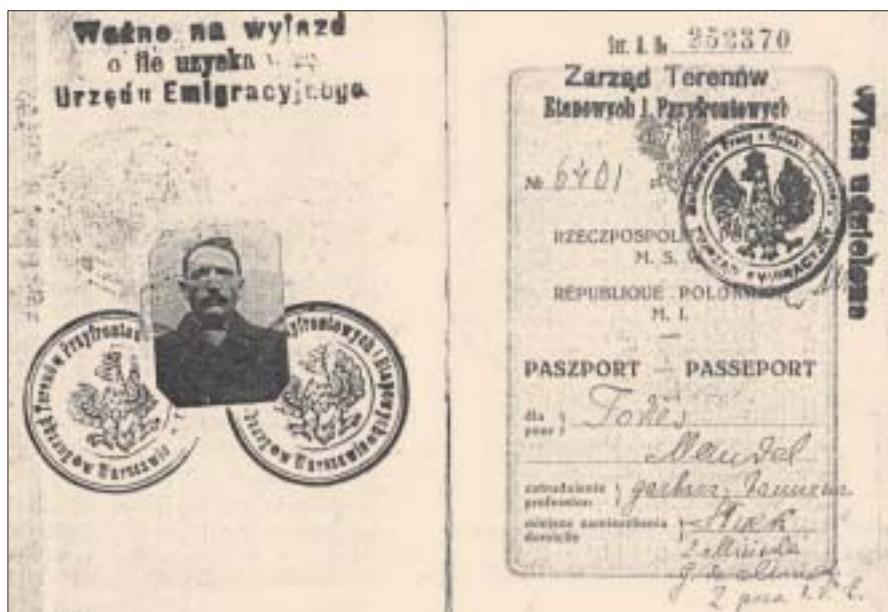
For the latest news in Polish genealogy, don't miss the *Gen Dobry!* newsletter. The newsletter's name is a pun on the Polish greeting "Dzien Dobry" or "Good Day". Edited by William "Fred" Hoffman, author of *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, each issue has information on conferences, resources, history, trivia and useful links to websites of interest to Polish researchers.

### Jewish Gen also has "info files" on a variety of genealogical topics.

#### 3. Polish Genealogical Society of America

[www.pgsa.org](http://www.pgsa.org)

As the name implies, the Polish Genealogical Society of America, or PGSA, is a research society open to anyone researching in Poland or its former territories. Founded in 1978, the society has regular meetings, workshops and conferences at its headquarters in Chicago, and offers members an excellent quarterly publication called



The JewishGen website features 'info files' on a variety of genealogical topics.

*Rodziny.* Membership isn't required to access the site, however, and it offers many good resources. PGSA's site, like PolishRoots, has translated entries from the *Słownik Geograficzny*. In addition, there are several searchable databases. Examples of these databases include indices of death notices from Chicago and Baltimore Polish-language newspapers. There is also an index to Haller's Army records. Named after its commanding general, this Polish Army in France was comprised of 20,000 Polish immigrants to America that were fight-

ing for Poland's independence during WWI. Another interesting database includes insurance claim records for the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), a benefit society with branches in major US cities with Polish immigrant populations.

#### 4. Jewish Gen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy

[www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)

Jewish Gen offers some of the most useful resources for Polish researchers, whether your ancestors were Jewish, Catholic or Protestant. The best database on the site is the ShtetlSeeker, a search engine for towns located in Central and Eastern European countries. ShtetlSeeker is unique because it uses the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex system. Created by Randy Daitch and Gary Mokotoff in 1985, this system modifies the Russell Soundex used by the US National Archives system. It includes a six-digit code that more easily compensates for Slavic or Yiddish pronunciations. Town names are frequently misspelled on passenger list records since they were recorded exactly as they were heard to American ears, ShtetlSeeker can often find the correct town. Results provide the latitude and longitude of all possible matches, the distance from a capital city and links to maps of the location.

Jewish Gen also has "info files" on a variety of genealogical topics. The most fascinating, which will be of interest to anyone searching immigrant arrival records at New York's Ellis Island regardless of ethnic background, is a page dedicated to handwritten annotations found on the passenger lists manifests. If you've ever discovered your ancestor's arrival record scribbled with odd annotations,

[www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Manifests/](http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Manifests/) reveals the meaning behind the scribbles.

For researchers whose Polish roots are Jewish, this site has many more useful databases, including indexing of Jewish records from over 350 towns, Holocaust databases and information regarding Yizkor books. Yizkor, or Memorial, books provide significant information about towns in Eastern or Central Europe that had Jewish communities. After the Holocaust, former residents of these towns compiled histo-



**To download a free, high-resolution version of this map from 1831, visit the *Internet Genealogy* website at [www.internet-genealogy.com/polandmap.htm](http://www.internet-genealogy.com/polandmap.htm)**

## Top Polish Websites

ries and wrote the memorial books in Hebrew or Yiddish as a testament to their murdered neighbors.

### 5. Genealogy and Poland: A Guide

[www.polishroots.org/genpoland/index.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/genpoland/index.htm)  
Though this site resides within the PolishRoots web space, it is listed separately due to the vast amount of information it contains. Long before PolishRoots came online, these pages existed elsewhere and were developed by Dr. Lukasz Bielecki, then a graduate student, hobby genealogist and licensed tour guide in Poland. Realizing that Poland's history and mixing of various languages and religions could be con-

type a surname into the empty box at the top of the page, and click *Szukaj* (Search). It is important to note that this site uses proper Polish spellings, which are sometimes difficult to type with standard keyboards. Therefore, if the surname includes a Polish character, use one of two wildcard characters: ? for any one letter, and \* for any number of letters. The search results include province name abbreviations followed by numbers, which represent the total number of residents with that name in 1990. To decipher the abbreviations, click on "*Tutaj znajduja sie objasnienia skrotow*". In addition, clicking on "*Zobacz mape*" will allow you to "see the map" of the country with the province abbreviations.

While the database will not provide names and addresses of current residents in Poland, it is helpful to determine if your name is common to a particular area of the country.

### 7. The State Archives of Poland

[www.archiwa.gov.pl/?CIDA=43](http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/?CIDA=43)

This is the English gateway to the official state archives of Poland. Although the site does offer some how-to advice for beginners, the most useful information comes from one of the archives' online databases, PRADZIAD, or the Programme for the Registration of Records from Parish and Civil Registration Offices. The database includes data on all parish or civil registers that are available through Poland's State Archives. Once you locate your ancestor's town in Poland, this database will show what records are available for that town. The site provides instructions in English. If microfilmed copies of the civil or parish records are unavailable through the Family History Library, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), you can write directly to the Polish Archives to request information on your ancestors.



*Swieta Lipka Church in Poland during winter.*

fusing to new researchers, Bielecki created a guide to the basics. The site offers clear information on locating towns and the history of Poland. It also details exactly what records may be available and how to obtain vital records in Poland. Finally, Dr. Bielecki offers some etymologies of Polish surnames.

### 6. Słownik Nazwisk Współczesne w Polsce Używanych

[www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html](http://www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html)

The Słownik Nazwisk, or "Dictionary of Surnames Currently Used in Poland," is the first comprehensive compilation of Polish surnames. Compiled from a 1990 Polish government database by Professor Kazimierz Rymut, it provides a total of Poles with a particular surname and breaks the number down by province. This site takes the complete 10-volume work, which contains over 800,000 surnames, and allows users to search for a specific name.

The site is in Polish, but it is easy to operate with a few guidelines. Simply

### 8. Napoleonic Polish Translation Aids

[www.esisnet.com/~jackbowmanstc/poltrans.htm](http://www.esisnet.com/~jackbowmanstc/poltrans.htm)

Many Polish researchers will find that their ancestors came from the large area in the center of the country that was occupied by Russia for a number of years. Civil vital registration began in this area, the Kingdom of Poland, in 1808. From 1808 to 1868 records were recorded in Polish. In 1868, Russian became the official language for vital records until Poland regained its independence in 1918. No matter which lan-

guage was used, the records were maintained in the Napoleonic format using an essay-like format, not simply a columnar registry of names and dates.

Since either language can be daunting to a new researcher, especially in a paragraph format, these pages offer translations of the main phrasing and style for three types of records (birth, marriage and death) in both languages. To show why this would be helpful, the following is an example of a birth record in the Napoleonic format:

"This happened in the town of Mszczonów on the twenty-sixth of August thousand eight hundred forty-third year, at seven in the evening. Ignacy Pluta appeared, a shoemaker, age 22, living here in Mszczonów, in the presence of [here the record names two male witnesses, their ages and occupations], and stated that on the twenty-first of this month and year at one in the morning a son was born here in Mszczonów to him and his wife, Katarzyna née Swierczynska, age 19. At Holy Baptism, performed today, this child was given the name Ludwik. [Here the record names the godparents and two assistants.] This document was read aloud to the declarant and witnesses, all illiterate, and signed only by Us. [The priest's signature follows.]"

The format usually stays the same in the parish, so once you decipher the format, it is easy to transcribe the names, numbers, occupations and dates with a word list. This site offers clear translations of this Napoleonic style for birth, marriage and death records. If your research leads you to Russian Poland, you will need this site.

## 9. **Poland.pl**

<http://poland.pl/>

The official website of Poland offers a significant amount of information, all in English (the Polish version's address is [www.polska.pl](http://www.polska.pl)). The site is a compendium of links to all things Polish, including news, travel information and photo galleries. For genealogical research, the most interesting section is under "Polish Archives". In this area, the site has reproductions of documents found in two of Poland's main archives. While it is unlikely that researchers will find documents relating to their personal family history, these reproductions offer a fascinating look into the history of Poland and its people.

Some examples of the varied docu-

ments, which range in age from medieval through modern times, include the 1660 Treaty of Oliwia which made peace

between Sweden and Poland, and the 1812 will and testament of Prince Jozef Poniatowski, which he prepared as the conflict between Napoleon and Russia heightened. There are also documents dealing with non-royal Poles, including a signed statement from 1831 from a woman named Emilia Plater who joined the insurrection out of love for her country, and a description of a wedding ceremony and feast that took place in a village named Krzywicyny in 1856.

## 10. **Ancestry — The Polish Connection**

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~atpc/>

The Polish Connection is a compendium of websites devoted to Polish heritage, news and research. The site is divided into several sections. First, the Genealogy section includes message boards, articles and links to useful sites. The Heritage section highlights Polish culture and history and includes photos of the country. The Learning section focuses on names and the Polish language. News contains news from Poland and Europe as well as genealogy-specific news. The Polonia section contains links from around the world to other Polonia sites. The Research section includes links to maps, history and all things Polish. Finally, the site's Life section focuses on freedom issues and peace throughout the world.

After visiting these 10 sites, researchers will have a clear understanding of their ancestors' Polish history and what to do next in order to begin their research journey to Poland.

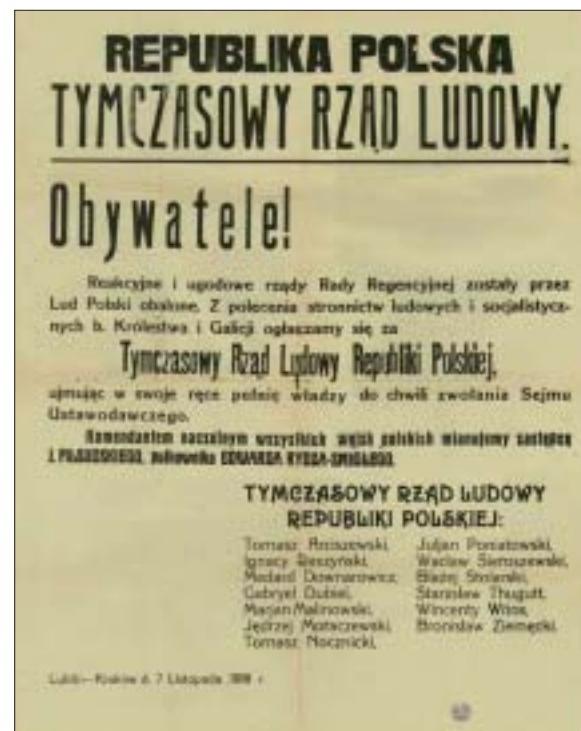


Image courtesy of the Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw. Archives of Leon Wasilewski, catalogue no. 68, p. 16.

*Poland.pl, the official website of Poland, features dozens of high resolution images of original documents, such as this poster in which the Members of the Provisional Government announced the establishment of the Provisional Government of the Polish People's Republic in Lublin.*



*Donna Pointkouski, has been researching her Polish and Bavarian ancestors for almost 20 years. She has taught genealogy classes and maintains two province pages on PolandGenWeb.*



# Ancestry Goes Canadian, Eh?

THIS PAST JANUARY, MyFamily.com launched a new Canadian family research website, [www.Ancestry.ca](http://www.Ancestry.ca). With more than 150 million names, and the first and only fully indexed 1911 census of Canada collection online, it has the largest number of Canadian research records on the Internet.

"Our goal was to create the best place to research your Canadian ancestry online, and with the large volume of names, data, records and images accessible on Ancestry.ca, we're pleased to accomplish the goal," said Tim Sullivan, president and chief executive officer of MyFamily.com.

Previously, the 1911 census — which was collected from 1 June 1911 and released by Statistics Canada to the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in July 2005 — was not indexed. The census was simply put online as it appeared, which meant that people had to know the name of the district and the sub-district in which the family being searched was located. This made it very difficult to find the family in question, and is the reason why the fully indexed census offered by Ancestry.ca is such a boon to researchers.

"The fully indexed 1911 census of Canada is searchable by family name for the first time anywhere on the web," said Sullivan. "The census, only the fifth general census in Canada, includes information on each inhabitant of the country, including place of habitation, marital status, age, place of birth, religion, occupation, education and more. It is truly a wealth of information to anyone researching Canadian ancestry," he added.

The census records include the nine provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, as well as the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. It does not include Newfoundland because it remained a British colony until 1949, when it officially became the 10th province of Canada. Newfoundland is not included in the federal censuses of Canada from 1851 to 1911. Labrador was enumerated in the 1911 Census of Canada, in the Northwest Territories, Labrador sub-district. The Territory of Nunavut was not declared a separate territory until

## MORE INFO:

- Ancestry.ca is a fee-based service: membership is \$99.95 CDN annually, or \$14.95 CDN monthly. A free 14-day trial offer to access the database is available. There is also an online demo to help viewers assess the contents of the site.
- Members of Ancestry.com can view all Canadian content with a World Deluxe membership for an annual price of \$299.40 US, or \$34.95 US monthly.

1 April 1999 and, in the 1911 census was also included in the Northwest Territories.

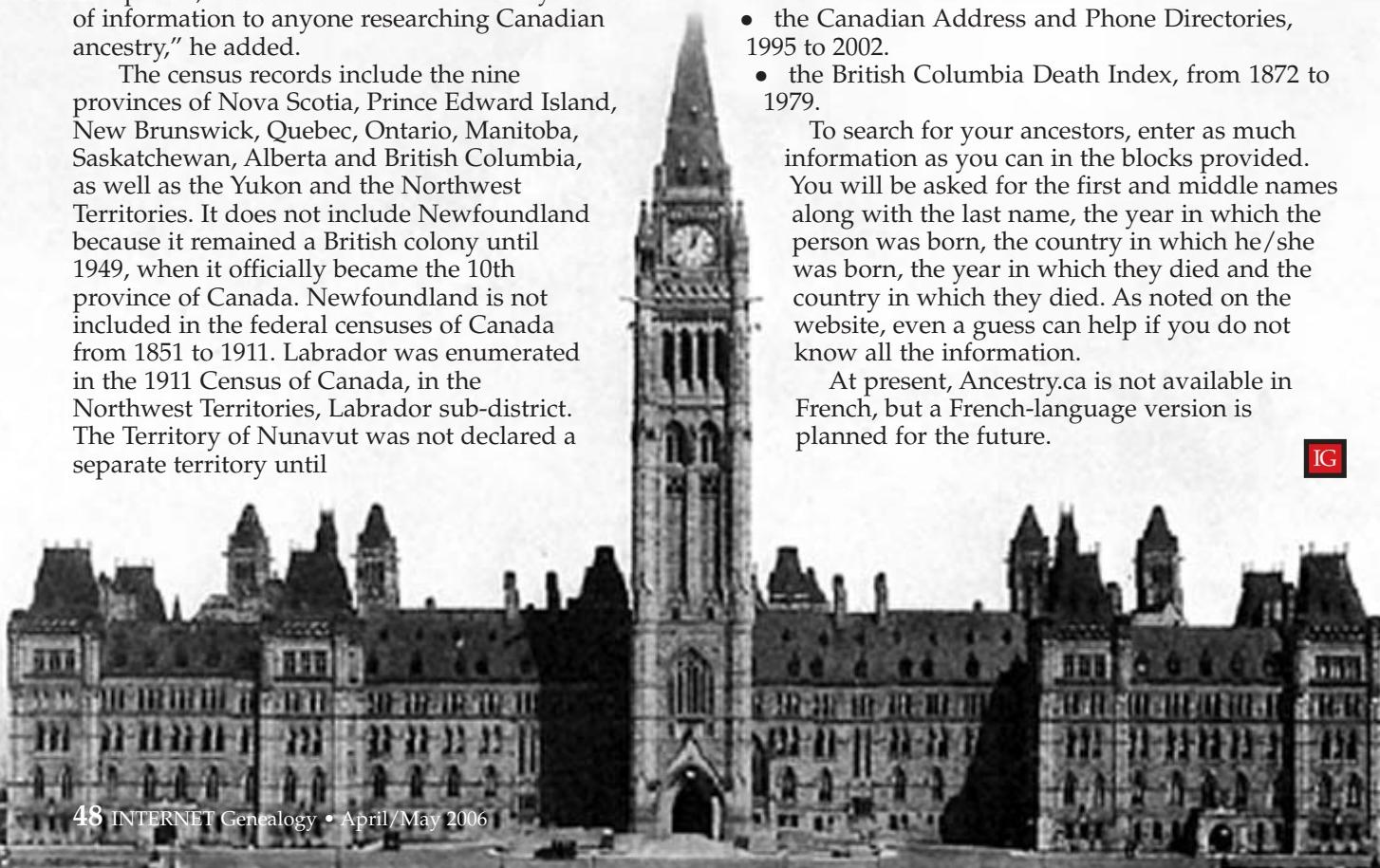
In addition, there are also the online collections of each of the provinces, beginning in 1592 when present-day Canada was still a colony — it did not become a country until 1 July 1867 — continuing through to 2002. Records from all provinces and territories are represented. Some of the collections include:

- Ontario Vital Statistics, which includes the Ontario Birth Index from July 1869 to December 1907, the Ontario Marriage Index from 1858-99 and the Ontario Death Index from July 1869 to December 1932.
- the Ontario and Nova Scotia census records from 1800 to 1842.
- the Canadian Genealogy Index from the 1600s to the 1900s.
- the Canadian Address and Phone Directories, 1995 to 2002.
- the British Columbia Death Index, from 1872 to 1979.

To search for your ancestors, enter as much information as you can in the blocks provided. You will be asked for the first and middle names along with the last name, the year in which the person was born, the country in which he/she was born, the year in which they died and the country in which they died. As noted on the website, even a guess can help if you do not know all the information.

At present, Ancestry.ca is not available in French, but a French-language version is planned for the future.

IG



# Newspapers Online

SAY WHAT YOU WILL about the Internet, but there's little doubt that the World Wide Web has revolutionized the way genealogists and family historians can conduct their newspaper research. The

proliferation of optical character recognition (OCR) technology and the speed with which old pages can be scanned means that more and more newspapers are now posting their full archives, some dating as far back as the late 18th century, in glorious, high-resolution images on the 'Net.

The days of sitting in the local library searching endlessly through roll after roll of hard-to-read microfilm are becoming increasingly rare.

after roll of hard-to-read microfilm are becoming increasingly rare.

**IS THIS THE END FOR MICROFILM?** In light of online newspaper archives' extraordinary growth, it's tempting to declare microfilm obsolete; a research relic, if you will. While that may be a bit premature (after all, who knows what the Internet will look like in 50 years?), it's safe to say that microfilm is no longer the only tool available to genealogists and researchers who are looking to do a bit of newspaper-based research. Ironically, the majority of online pages are actually scanned using the existing microfilm, so don't throw out those dusty spools just yet! The process of getting all these old newspaper pages online involves digitizing the microfilm on a commercial scanner, which allows for the resulting image

files to be restored (if necessary) and for any marks, scratches or other noticeable damage to be removed. The file is then run through the OCR process which reads all the words on the page and turns it into an index, which is then added to the existing fully searchable online database. In other words, finding any mention of your long-lost great-great-uncle Larry and his prize-winning squash from a long-forgotten town fair has got a lot easier.

## RESEARCH FOR A FEE

Not surprisingly, the majority of the online archives I visited while researching this article charged a subscription fee, but in most cases, it was quite reasonable, especially considering the sheer volume of information that is put at your fingertips. However, nearly all of them offered either a free trial preview or allowed you to search for free and purchase any relevant results on a per article basis. While every archive I visited was fully searchable, some were by keyword only, while others offered more advanced search capabilities including first and/or last name, keyword/phrase and date including month, day and year. An important point to remember when searching is that your great-great-uncle Larry from Colebrook, Connecticut is much more likely to be mentioned in the smaller community newspapers than the larger national and international dailies. After all, a town fair is not important news for the bigger papers, but in the day-to-day minutiae of small-town life, Larry's vegetable-growing prowess is exactly the sort of news at which community papers excel. Often they will flesh out a story with mention of other details like his profession at the time, where he lived, his age, names of family members, and if you're lucky, a photograph.

## THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

Don't be surprised to find mention of your long-lost relative in the unlikeliest of sections within old newspapers, both large and small. Classified ads, letters to the editor, business advertisements and social columns can end up being a gold-mine of information, as can the daily police blotter and sport reports.



**The days of sitting in the local library searching endlessly through roll after roll of hard-to-read microfilm are becoming increasingly rare.**

## Newspapers Online

### M.P.P. WELCOMES JEWISH PLAY CAST

"Like Home," Says Actor, Whose Career Began Here

Returning to the city where he started the spectacular career that made him one of the outstanding Jewish actors, Menasha Skulnick arrived in Toronto to-day with a company of 30 which will stage a musical comedy in Massey Hall to-night and to-morrow night by special engagement.

On behalf of the Jewish people of the city, John J. Glass, M.P.P., was at the Union station to welcome the troupe.

Breaking all existing records for the Jewish stage, the show ran nine performances a day for 32 weeks in New York. Joe Grossman, manager, said. Starring Skulnick, the play "Fishele der Gerutener," is a story of two Polish youths in the United States. The prologue is played by children.

"It's just like coming home," Menasha Skulnick said as he arrived. "I'll have a real holiday here and a chance to meet my old friends again."

Be sure to search for all possible name variations. Menasha Skulnick is incorrectly spelled as Skulnik toward the end of the article shown above.

**It's important to remember that editorial standards in old newspapers weren't what they are today, and spelling errors, especially names, were common**

Newspapers also used to publish lists of undelivered mail, hotel guests, building permits and other "news" items that wouldn't even make it into the smallest of community papers nowadays. "Jimmy Smith, 14, of Wellington Avenue was bitten by a rat while playing yesterday" is a great example of the sort of gem you might unearth.

Remember too, that the possibility exists that you could stumble upon a past indiscretion that certain family members have tried hard to forget, so be prepared. Luckily I didn't. In fact, the most interesting bit of family-related gossip I discovered was that there was a famous Jewish vaudevillian named Menashe Skulnick (widely considered the Charlie Chaplin of the Yiddish stage, according to the *Toronto Star*) who may or may not be a long-lost relation somewhere down the family line. Another important point to remember

when searching is that editorial standards in newspapers weren't what they are today, and spelling errors, especially of names, were quite common in old newspapers. One of the articles on Menashe Skulnick alternated between Skulnick and Shulnick, and even got it wrong in the headline! When searching by last name, be sure to enter in all known spelling variations; you'll be surprised at what might turn up.

Nearly all search results in the various online archives compiled below are displayed as high resolution (300 dpi or higher) PDFs (Portable Document Format), which allows you to simply view the entire page, print it or save it to your hard drive for further adjustments (such as cropping, zooming, etc.) using photo-editing software such as Adobe Photoshop. In order to view PDFs, you will need to install Adobe Reader, which is downloadable for free from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). You also have the choice of displaying/saving just the article that mentions your great-great-uncle Larry, or the entire newspaper page, complete with ads, other stories, etc., for added context. Seeing the article as it appeared in the newspaper on 12 May 1902, next to advertisements for

imported silk umbrellas from Paris, "guaranteed painless" tooth extractions and reports of a new method of shooting partridges gives us a glimpse, however briefly, into our ancestors' day-to-day existence.

#### PAPER OF RECORD

[www.paperofrecord.com](http://www.paperofrecord.com)

- Collection of newspapers from Australia, Canada, Mexico, UK and USA.
- Features over eight million pages, with new pages added every week.
- Fully searchable by date, keyword, etc., and all keyword highlighted results are displayed as high-res PDFs that can be saved and/or printed.
- Subscription required — \$16.75 US/month or \$99.99 US/year.

#### TORONTO STAR

<http://thestar.pagesofthepast.ca>

- Over two million pages dating from 1894 to 2002.
- Fully searchable by date, keyword, section, etc.
- Results are displayed as high-res PDFs that can be saved and/or printed.
- Free trial allows you to search and access all of 1945, including obtaining high-res PDFs of your results.
- Subscription required — Prices range from \$3.95 CDN for one-hour, \$9.95 CDN for 72 hours, up to \$29.95 CDN for one month.

**NEW YORK TIMES** (1851 - 2001)

**WALL STREET JOURNAL** (1889 - 1987)

**WASHINGTON POST** (1877 - 1988)

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR** (1908-91)

**LOS ANGELES TIMES** (1881 - 1984)

**CHICAGO TRIBUNE** (1849 - 1984)

**BOSTON GLOBE** (1872 - 1922)

[www.proquest.com](http://www.proquest.com)

- Fully searchable by date, keyword, etc.
- Results are displayed as high-res PDFs that can be saved and/or printed.
- Only available through libraries and educational facilities.
- Each newspaper's archives are also accessible through its own website (i.e. [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), via a searchable database that can be subscribed to on a per-article or annual basis. See newspaper's individual website (under archives) for costs and other details.

#### OBITS ARCHIVE.COM

[www.ObitsArchive.com](http://www.ObitsArchive.com)

- Obituaries and death notices from

more than 550 US newspapers.

- Each obituary or death notice is indexed by the name of the deceased person.
- In addition, the text of each obituary or death notice is searchable by place of residence, occupation, names of family members, or other personal information.
- Text-only results can be printed and/or saved.
- Searching is free, with the results available for purchase on a per article basis (starting at \$3.50 US for one article.)

#### PARATEXT

[www.paratext.com](http://www.paratext.com)

- Free to access, but only available through academic, public and special libraries.
- 19th Century Masterfile section of the Paratext website contains over 60 fully searchable reference databases and indexes including pre-1925 newspapers, indexes, periodicals, books, patents and US/UK government documents.

#### THE TIMES (LONDON)

[www.timesonline.co.uk](http://www.timesonline.co.uk)

- Considered the paper of record for the UK.
- Online archives from 1985 to present can be searched free of charge, with the results available for purchase on a per article basis (for as little as 17 cents an article).
- Fully searchable digital archives of the *Times'* complete run from 1785-1985 are also available online but only through select reference and educational libraries.

#### OTHERDAYS

[www.otherdays.com](http://www.otherdays.com)

- Range of fully searchable (date, keyword) Irish newspapers from the 18th and 19th centuries, including the *Dublin Penny Journal* (1832-36), *Freeman's Journal* (1775-76) and the *Belfast Newsletter* (1801).
- Free trial preview available.
- Results displayed as hi-res images that can be printed and/or saved.
- Membership required — \$44 US (Annual), \$16 US (Monthly) or \$8 US (72 hours) but this includes unlimited access to the site's entire online database of additional photographs, indexes, rare books and various other research tools.

THE LONDON GAZETTE, 9 MAY, 1944		2153
No. 37. SKULNICK, Michael, 83, Wellesley Court, Maida Vale, London. POTTERY MANUFACTURER, Court—HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE. Date of Filing Petition—April 3, 1944. No. of Matter—30 of 1944. Date of Receiving Order—May 3, 1944. No. of Receiving Order—48. Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition—Creditor's. Act of Bankruptcy passed in Creditor's Petition—Section 1-1 [S.I.] Bankruptcy Act, 1914.	DAY APPOINTED FOR PROCEEDING WITH PUBLIC EXAMINATION ADJOURNED SINE DIE.	
No. 38. EMMERSON, Robert Leslie, 48, Rockery Lane, in the city of Lincoln. HAULAGE CONTRACTOR, Court—LINCOLN AND BURNECASTLE. Date of Filing Petition—April 29, 1944. No. of Matter—1 of 1944. Date of Receiving Order—April 29, 1944. No. of Receiving Order—1. Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition—Debtor's.	PEARCE, George Theodore, described in the Receiving Order as of 9, Beach Drive, Bognor Regis, Herne Bay, and lately carrying on business at 124, Stanley Road, Bognor Regis addressed. ENGINEER, Court—HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE. No. of Matter—438 of 1943. Date Fixed for Proceeding with Examination—May 23, 1944. 11 a.m. Place—Bankruptcy Buildings, Canary Street, London, W.C.2.	
ADJUDICATIONS.		
GRIFFITHS, Herbert Flownan, described in the Receiving Order as Herbert P. Griffiths, carrying on business at 3 and 6, Prince's Street, Cavendish Square, in the county of London.		

#### LONDON GAZETTE

[www.gazettesonline.co.uk](http://www.gazettesonline.co.uk)

- *The London Gazette*, first published in 1665, is the oldest, continuously published newspaper in the UK and probably the world.
- Online archive covers the 20th century *London Gazette* and the *Belfast Gazette*, from 1900 to 1997.
- The *Gazette* contains a wide range of official notices including state, parliamentary and ecclesiastical notices, transport and planning notices as well as corporate insolvency and personal bankruptcy notices. In addition, a number of Supplements are published covering military honors and awards, premium bonds, armed forces promotions and company information.
- Free to search; searchable by keyword including person's name.
- Results are displayed as hi-res PDF images of original pages.

#### ACCESSIBLE ARCHIVES

([www.accessible.com](http://www.accessible.com))

- Newspaper archives include the *Pennsylvania Gazette* (1728-1800), the *Liberator* (1831-65), several African-American newspapers of the 19th century including the *Colored American*

(*Weekly Advocate*), the *North Star*, the *National Era*, and the *Provincial Freeman* and various Civil War newspapers including the *New York Herald*, the *Charleston Mercury* and the *Richmond Enquirer*.

#### The London Gazette

returned several results for a Michael Skulnick in London, England.



Accessible Archives now has an entire section devoted to the various online newspaper archives including the New York Herald, above, and other Civil War era newspapers.

## Newspapers Online

- Results are displayed as transcribed pages, not PDFs.
- Free trial available.
- Available in libraries and educational institutions, although personal subscriptions are also available, \$19.95 US for 30 days and \$59.95 US for one year.

### HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

<http://historynews.chadwyck.com/>

- A division of Proquest, Historical Newspapers features Palmer's Index to the *Times* which covers the period from 1790 to 1905 in the *Times*, the Official Index to the *Times* which takes the coverage forward from 1906 to 1980, the Historical Index to the *New York Times* which covers the *New York Times* from 1851 to September 1922 and Palmer's Full Text Online, 1785-1870, providing access to the full articles referenced in Palmer's Index to the *Times*.
- Only available in libraries and educational facilities, although certain indexes, such as Palmer's Index to The Times, 1790-1905, are available on CD-ROM.

### NEWSLIBRARY.COM

[www.newslibrary.com](http://www.newslibrary.com)

- Close to 800 fully searchable US newspapers and other news sources (magazines, newswires, etc.)
- Text-only results can be saved and/or printed.
- Searching is free, with relevant results available for purchase on a per article basis (starting at \$3.50 US for one article, \$14.95 US for five articles and up).

### ANCESTRY.COM'S HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

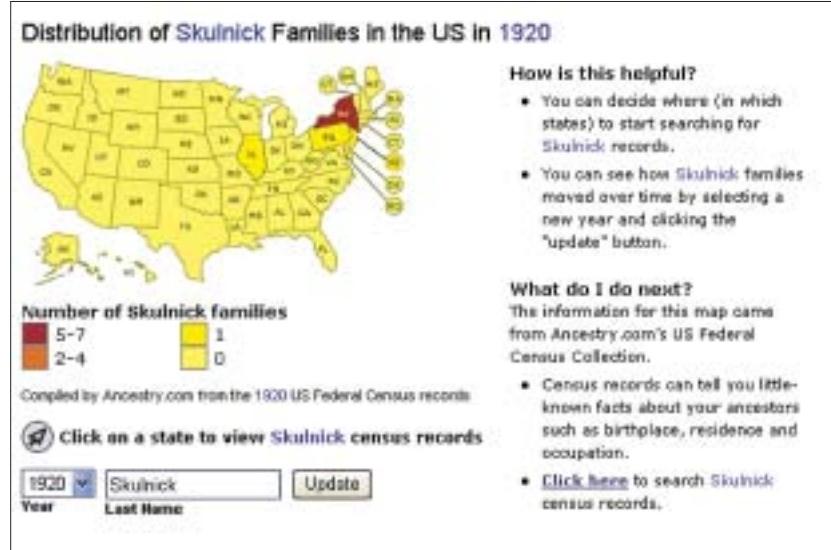
[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

- More than seven million pages from over 500 different newspapers across the US, UK and Canada dating from 1765 through 2001.
- Newspaper subscription also includes access to Ancestry's Obituary Collection that contains more than two million obituaries.
- Keyword highlighted results displayed as high-res digital images that can be saved.
- Free 14-day trial available.
- Subscription required (from \$29.95 US).

### NEWSBANK

[www.newsbank.com](http://www.newsbank.com)

- More than 1,500 US and interna-



tional newspapers available online, featuring over 100 million articles.

- Fully searchable by keyword, date, etc.
- Available only in schools, libraries, colleges and universities.

### NEWSPAPERARCHIVE.COM

[www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com)

- 27.8 million newspaper pages online from UK, US, Canada, Ireland, Denmark, South Africa, US Virgin Islands and Jamaica.
- One million new pages of content added every month.
- Results displayed as high-res PDFs that can be printed and/or saved.
- Subscription required — \$6.95 US/month or \$49.95 US/annually.

Every site listed here is hassle-free and easy-to-navigate and there are sure to be others that are just as worthy of your time and money. Do a little digging for "online newspaper archives" on Google and if there's a particular newspaper you're after, chances are it'll be online in some form. There is no shortage of quality, affordable websites that offer searchable online newspaper archives, and with millions of pages being added every month, the research possibilities are virtually endless, so keep checking the websites for new additions.

Ancestry.com's Newspaper search results can also give you the geographic distribution of families matching your desired surname. For instance, it says that in 1920, most Skulinicks lived in New York State.

It also gives you the option of viewing the relevant census records.

**With millions of pages being added every month, the research possibilities are virtually endless, so keep checking the websites for new additions.**



# Genealogy Freebies

IN THE SONG "The Best Things in Life are Free" the lyrics refer to love not material goods. B.G. DeSylva, Lew Brown and Ray Henderson wrote the piece for the 1927 musical *Good News* but since then the phrase has become part of our cultural heritage. Everyone loves a bargain, including genealogists. Back in the old days, family historians used to buy organizational tools such as charts to keep their research in order. That was before the Internet and home computers. Now all of that helpful recordkeeping material is free, just like in the song.

The first place to look for freebies is in your genealogical software. Most offer a variety of printable forms to take on the road. That doesn't mean you can't explore the options available online. Name a type of chart, tree or source record and I'll bet you can find a downloadable form online. Census extraction forms, correspondence records, research checklists and, of course, pedigree charts are all available. You will probably need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view most of them. It's available free from the Adobe website, [www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html](http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html).

**PEDIGREE CHARTS AND FAMILY TREES**  
While most of the forms you find need to be printed or saved before you can begin to enter information, Genealogy .About.com offers a downloadable pedigree chart [genealogy.about.com/library/free\\_charts/pedigree.pdf](http://genealogy.about.com/library/free_charts/pedigree.pdf) and family tree [genealogy.about.com/library/free\\_charts/bl\\_family\\_tree.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/library/free_charts/bl_family_tree.htm) that are interactive. You can begin to fill them out once you've clicked the download button, making it easy to share with relatives or upload to your web page.

Since genealogy is one of the most popular hobbies in North America, even mainstream media outlets get in on the action. For instance, Martha Stewart.com offers a seven-generation fan chart at no charge.

If you're looking for a way to get little ones interested in genealogy rent Disney's *Tigger Movie*, print out the forms from the movie's website [disney.go.com/disneyvideos/animatedfilms/tiggermovie/familytree.html](http://disney.go.com/disneyvideos/animatedfilms/tiggermovie/familytree.html) and help them fill in these kid-friendly family trees.

If you'd like something more decorative, Kimberly Powell of About.com's genealogy forum created a five-generation tree entwined with roses that prints to either 8x10 or 8½ x11. It's suitable for framing.

## FORM LETTERS

If you're like most North Americans, your family originally came from another country. Unless you're fluent in the language of their country of origin writing a request for information is a challenge. Not if you use the fill in the blank form letters in English, French, German, Italian and German available on the Genealogy.com site.

**FREE!**

## NOTE TAKING, RESEARCH LOGS AND CORRESPONDENCE LOGS

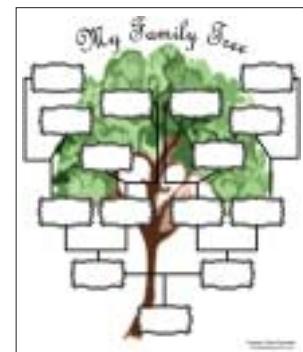
How many times have you looked for a source for something in your notes or duplicated a piece of research?

Everyone does it unless they keep track of what they've already done. *Family Tree Magazine*, [www.familytreemagazine.com](http://www.familytreemagazine.com), offers researchers a choice of forms for individuals or couples as well as several different types of research logs in either a text or pdf format.

An extensive list of additional types of downloadable charts and forms appears on Cyndislist.com, [www.cyndislist.com/supplies.htm#Online](http://www.cyndislist.com/supplies.htm#Online), and on the *Family Tree Magazine* website, [www.familytreemagazine.com](http://www.familytreemagazine.com), making it easy to find helpful forms for everything from note taking to military records.

## RELATIONSHIP CHARTS

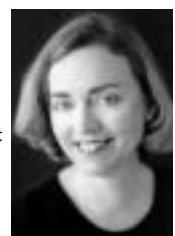
Get a group of related genealogists together and they'll spend time trying to figure out their exact connection. Just like those handy tip charts that make determining a gratuity a cinch these two relationship charts will eliminate any doubt. Relationship charts on sites hosted by Rootsweb are [www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/cousins.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/cousins.htm) and <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~hornbeck/chart.htm>



[http://genealogy.about.com/library/free\\_charts/bl\\_family\\_tree.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/library/free_charts/bl_family_tree.htm)

*One of many genealogy charts that may be downloaded free from the Internet. This one, and many more, are available from Kimberly Powell's About.com's genealogy forum.*

Maureen Taylor loves writing about family history and photography. Check out her new blog at [www.photodetective.com](http://www.photodetective.com). It's free.



**TIMELINES**

If you want to see your relatives in the context of history then use a timeline. They basically list the milestones or facts of a person's life compared with historical events. Genealogists aren't the only people that use them. Since timelines are a great way to teach children about their place in history, a variety of different timeline charts developed by teachers or for home school environments can be found online. One of the most linked-to timeline sites is the Christian Homeschooler's Association of South Eastern South Carolina, [www.chasesc.com/timeline.html](http://www.chasesc.com/timeline.html), that includes timelines and instructions. You can create a decorative presentation using the templates on Notebooking.org, [www.notebooking.org/build/timeline/](http://www.notebooking.org/build/timeline/), but it's limited to eight events.

If you're looking for historical data to plug into your timeline, consult *The Timetables of History* by Bernard Grun (Touchstone, 1991) or any other similar books free at your public library or see if a event list appears on Wikipedia (the free online encyclopedia), [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_themed\\_timelines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_themed_timelines)

**ORAL HISTORY**

While oral history is usually recorded using media, it is possible to leave a small legacy behind in handwriting. A fill-in-the-blanks template for use by grandparents is on OurGrandChild.com, [www.ourgrandchild.com/familystory/index.htm](http://www.ourgrandchild.com/familystory/index.htm).

I can't imagine it, but if you don't end up finding

a form to meet your needs, turn to your computer and create one yourself. It's not all that difficult using your word processing software or a charting program like Smartdraw. A free trial is available on their site, [www.smartdraw.com](http://www.smartdraw.com). With all this free help there's no reason your research should be unorganized.

IG

**UNTANGLE YOUR ROOTS  
AMONG OUR LEAVES!**

*Send for our latest catalogs:*  
**Family History**  
**Local History**  
**Civil War**  
**Map**

**Higginson Book Company**  
**PO Box 778**  
**DEPT INTG**  
**Salem, MA 01970**

*Check out our website at*  
[www.higginsonbooks.com](http://www.higginsonbooks.com)

## Your Ancestors are Waiting!



This Web site has been helping connect families since 1999 with its unique collection of databases and innovative search tools, original articles from experienced genealogists, and a marketplace with an extensive catalog of products for tree building.

**Genealogy**  
**Today.com**

[\*\*www.GenealogyToday.com\*\*](http://www.GenealogyToday.com)

Genealogy Today LLC  
P. O. Box 911, New Providence, N.J. 07974

## SWEDISH GENEALOGY ONLINE



15 Million  
Images!  
30 Million Pages  
of Church Records

- Birth
- Marriage
- Death
- Household Census
- Movements within Sweden
- Emigration from Sweden

**SPECIAL OFFER:**

Save almost 50% on a  
3-month subscription!

Available to new genline subscribers. Register with *genline* as an Internet Genealogy reader and use code IG2006 when ordering. Offer expires September 30, 2006

1600 to 1895

**genline**  
[www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)

# The Family History Library Online Catalog

WHEREVER YOUR ANCESTORS lived, the online catalog of the Family History Library (FHL) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) in Salt Lake City is an essential research aid.

When you begin research in an unfamiliar

location or on newly discovered ancestors, the catalog should be one of the first references you consult. Besides identifying materials at the FHL, the catalog alerts you to numerous records you can borrow through your nearest Family History Center (FHC). Simply bookmark [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) so you can find it quickly whenever you're planning your next research step.

that page says "View Film Notes", the item is available on microfilm or microfiche at the FHL and usually through the rental program. Click "View Film Notes" to get the film or fiche number you'll need at the FHL or to submit a request at your FHC. If there are no film notes, you know the title is available at the FHL, but not in the rental program.

To borrow microfilm or microfiche for research, visit your nearest FHC. Identify FHC locations in telephone directories under Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and at [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset\\_fhc.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp). The FHCs are staffed by volunteers, so hours vary. Inexpensive film rental gives you access to the material at the FHC for about a month, but you can renew microfilm for additional fees. The second renewal places microfilm on indefinite loan, and it remains at the center until you release it. Microfiche automatically becomes a permanent part of the FHC collection.

## PLACE SEARCH

The Place Search option is my favorite when planning research or after finding ancestors in a new location, when I need to learn about records available from there.

For a place search, use one or both of the search boxes. In the "place" box enter a country, state, province, county or city name. For example, a search on the name Halifax lists 13 places in England, Canada, Australia and the US. Narrow the search by using the "part of" box: [place] Halifax, [part of] Nova Scotia. This time, the results page shows two names that include both Halifax and Nova Scotia — Halifax County and its city of Halifax. The page displays the county as "Nova Scotia, Halifax" (Nova Scotia's Halifax County) and the city as "Nova Scotia, Halifax, Halifax" (Nova Scotia's Halifax County, city of Halifax).

**Tips:** 1. Don't include the word county in your search. 2. Don't use "United States" or "Canada" in the "part of" box. 3. The results appear in this order: state/province, county (if applicable) and city.

Select a name on the results page to



*The entrance to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.*

iar location or on newly discovered ancestors, the catalog should be one of the first references you consult. Besides identifying materials at the FHL, the catalog alerts you to numerous records you can borrow through your nearest Family History Center (FHC). Simply bookmark [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) so you can find it quickly whenever you're planning your next research step.

## CATALOG BASICS

To enter the catalog, go to the topmost menu on the FHL homepage. Click "Library", then "Family History Library Catalog". From there you can search on Place, Surname, Film/Fiche, Keyword, Title, Author, Subject, or Call Number. We'll focus on the first four choices.

The search options have basic features in common. The results page for each search lists places or titles at the FHL that match your criteria. On the next screen or two, click an item of interest to find specific titles that could aid your research. When you reach the "title details" page for each resource, you'll find bibliographic information and the FHL call number for books — handy if you plan to use them at the FHL. If the gray box at the top right of



*Emily Croom is an active genealogy researcher, lecturer, teacher and*

*author. Her books include The Sleuth Book for Genealogists (2000) and Unpuzzling Your Past (4th ed., 2001). Visit her website at [www.unpuzzling.com](http://www.unpuzzling.com).*

# **IG EXPRESS TUTORIAL**

*Choosing the topic  
"Nova Scotia,  
Halifax, Halifax —  
Church records"  
brings up 13 titles.*

*Clicking the title "Parish registers, 1830-1969, Catholic Church, Saint Mary's Basilica" takes you to the title-details page, which explains that baptism, marriage, death and burial records of this church are on 10 rolls of microfilm.*

*The option "View Film Notes" displays the contents of the microfilm so you can determine which reels apply to your research. Note the film numbers you want to use at the FHL or request through your local FHC.*

view topics available for that location. For example, for Halifax, choosing the topic "Nova Scotia, Halifax, Halifax — Church records" brings up 13 titles. Clicking the title "Parish registers, 1830-1969, Catholic Church, Saint Mary's Basilica" takes you to the title-details page, which explains that baptism, marriage, death and burial records of this church are on 10 rolls of microfilm. The option "View Film Notes" displays the contents of the microfilm so you can determine which reels apply to your

records as much as possible, the topic-details and title-details pages help you distinguish between microfilmed original records and abstracts or transcriptions. For example, for Jackson County, Mississippi, the topic "Vital Records" contains three titles. Two of these have a person as the author and no film notes. These books are abstracts from records and newspapers in the county and are available at the FHL and perhaps, a genealogy library near you. The third title, "Marriage records, 1875-1951", has for its author the Jackson County (Mississippi) Chancery Clerk. This designation and the film notes indicate that the microfilm is of the county courthouse records. This county dates from 1812, but the earliest available marriage records begin in 1875. This discrepancy is one indication that the county has suffered record losses in courthouse fires and storms.

Often it's beneficial to use the place search on both the state/province and county name. For example, a search for "California" and the topic "voting registers" shows five titles, all of which relate to more than one county. If you stopped there, however, you could miss other relevant records. Because county governments, not the state, created the voter registers, you'd likely find more registers for your ancestral county with a place search on the county name, in California or other states.

Likewise, you'd find the most comprehensive list of tax records for Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia and other states with a place search on the county name instead of the state name. However, the 424 microfilm reels of Texas county tax rolls, 1846 to 1910, are listed under "Texas — Taxation". In this case, a note on the title-details page mentions that these Texas tax lists do not circulate to FHCs. Thus, you could determine the years available for your ancestral county but would need to use the microfilm at the FHL, Houston's Clayton Library or Dallas Public Library. As is possible with records at various state archives, much of this Texas microfilm is also available on interlibrary loan from the Texas State Archives' Regional Historical Resource Depositories through your local public or academic library. For more information, see [www tsl.state.tx.us/arc/local/index.html](http://www tsl.state.tx.us/arc/local/index.html).

research. Note the film numbers you want to use at the FHL or request through your local FHC.

In summary, the process takes you from place search to place results, topics, specific titles, title details and film notes.

The place search identifies land, vital, court, religious and other records pertaining to each location. Since genealogists should research original



page showing topics available for a state or province, you can also view a list of "related places" — present or discontinued counties, districts, townships or other subdivisions within the larger jurisdiction. This option is handy for navigating in the catalog between locations within a state or province where your ancestors lived.

### SURNAME SEARCH

This feature of the FHL catalog is useful for finding compiled family histories. Simply enter a surname you're researching. Click each item of interest to check its call number or availability on microfilm or microfiche.

A title's description may mention other surnames included in the work to help you determine whether it applies to your research. For example, when I searched for the name Littler, three of the 13 title descriptions included the surnames Dragoo, Minshall or Metcalfe, which were connected with my Littler family. Thus, I was interested in these items. One was available only at the FHL. One was available on film; one, on fiche. These details helped me choose what to order through the FHC.

### FILM AND FICHE SEARCH

When you read genealogy articles, case studies and their footnotes, you'll see references to FHL film numbers as part of the documentation or to assist readers in finding the records being discussed. For example, the article "The Case of the Missing Census" in the September/October 2005 issue of *Family Chronicle* included several FHL film numbers. One item was the 1890 census of US Civil War Union veterans and widows. A film search using one of the numbers — 0338160 — displays the census title. Click the title to learn more about that census and the information you might obtain about an ancestor if his or her schedule survives.

The film notes for this census show the coverage of the 122 rolls of film — the state or counties on each roll — so you can determine which one(s) to order. If your Civil War Union veteran or his widow lived in Nebraska in 1890, you'd choose the roll that includes their county since the Nebraska schedules are on three rolls of film. However, South Carolina's Union veterans or their widows would

be listed on roll 338252, covering the entire state. Sometimes a Confederate veteran was enumerated by mistake. The entry was later crossed out, but you can often read it and retrieve the information.

### KEYWORD SEARCH

If you're uncertain how to find records for which you have no specific title or film number, the keyword search may be a good option. Caution: Using broad keywords such as "land records" shows thousands of results, far too many to wade through; for that information, use a place search.

The keyword search for "Confederate burials" yields 130 results from many states. Such a list might suggest sources you hadn't thought about or specific titles to look for in a library near you. To be thorough, also do a place search on the state or county where the deceased was buried. A keyword search on "compiled service records Confederate" shows 154 results, including burials, compiled service records from various states and other related topics, not just titles that include these four words.

### OTHER OPTIONS

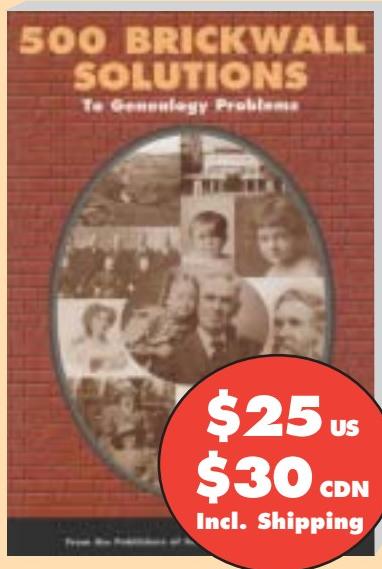
The remaining catalog search options are useful when you want to check details about works by a specific title, author or FHL call number. The title search could also help you locate National Archives microfilm for which you have a title, such as "Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907-1933". The subject search uses the Library of Congress subject headings. Unless you have a background in using these subject headings, it's probably easier to try the keyword search.

The FHL online catalog is an indispensable resource to help you plan a trip to the FHL, borrow materials through your local FHC, identify record types and titles you might find in a library near you and get ideas as you plan your strategy. Using the catalog frequently will save you valuable time as you research.

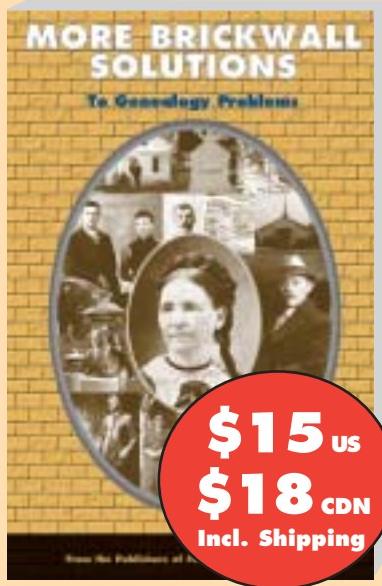
### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Locate a Family History Center: [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset\\_fhc.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp)
- Research guidance, information and tips for specific states, provinces and countries: [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset\\_rg.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rg.asp)
- Research outlines; resources for specific places and subjects, including help with languages: [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset\\_rhelps.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rhelps.asp)
- Search the abstracted 1880 US, 1881 British Isles or 1881 Canadian censuses: [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp) (Click on Census Search)
- US Social Security Death Index: [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp) (Choose the SSDI option)

# Hit a Brickwall in Your Research? Family Chronicle Can Help.



**\$25 us  
\$30 CDN**  
Incl. Shipping



**\$15 us  
\$18 CDN**  
Incl. Shipping

Whether you're a novice or a seasoned professional, every genealogist or family historian encounters a brickwall or a seemingly insurmountable research obstacle, such as a missing gravestone, inexplicable census omission or unconfirmed marriage.

*Family Chronicle* now has two great books to offer on the subject of genealogical brickwalls: *500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems* and our newest book, *More Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems*. Together, they offer over 670 fully indexed brickwall solutions showing how genealogists and family historians have found ways around their research problems, using the latest technology or tried and true research techniques, combined with logic and perseverance, to overcome their genealogy brickwalls.

*500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems* contains over 500 stories submitted by *Family Chronicle* readers in a beautiful softcover, 432-page edition. Now in its third printing. \$25 US or \$30 CDN.

*More Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems* is our latest collection of over 170 new brickwall solutions, packed with even more informative thinking and unorthodox research techniques. This softcover, 192-page volume contains over 100 black and white photographs and illustrations. \$15 US or \$18 CDN.

**Order both books for the great low price of  
\$32 us or \$38 CDN\*.**

\*Canadian orders are subject to 7% GST. Residents of NB, NL, & NS please remit 15% HST.

## ORDER FORM

- Phone **Toll-Free 1-877-731-4478 extension 111**. Please have your VISA or MasterCard ready.
- Fax this order form to 416-491-3996. Please ensure your credit card information is filled out.
- Visit our website at [www.familychronicle.com/BrickwallSolutions.html](http://www.familychronicle.com/BrickwallSolutions.html)
- Mail this order form to the appropriate address located below:

<input type="checkbox"/> 500 Brickwall Solutions	\$25 US	\$32.10 CDN (\$30 + \$2.10 GST <sup>†</sup> )
<input type="checkbox"/> More Brickwall Solutions	\$15 US	\$19.26 CDN (\$18 + \$1.26 GST <sup>†</sup> )
<input type="checkbox"/> Two book bundle	\$32 US	\$40.66 CDN (\$38 + \$2.66 GST <sup>†</sup> )

All prices include shipping. <sup>†</sup>Residents of NS, NB or NL Please remit 15% HST instead of GST

Payment by:  Check (enclosed) Credit Card  VISA  MasterCard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA orders send to: History Magazine, PO Box 194, Niagara Falls, NY 14304**

**Canadian orders send to: History Magazine, 505 Consumers Road, Suite 500, Toronto, ON M2J 4V8**

GST #13934 0186 RT

## Guarantee

There is no risk. If we fail to meet your needs, or live up to the promises we have made, you are entitled to a refund on your purchase for any reason or no reason. Any refund will be made promptly and cheerfully.

**Halvor Moorshead  
Editor & Publisher**

# A2A: Access to Archives

HAVING ENGLISH ANCESTORS, and being thousands of miles away from the actual resources you want to search, is not only frustrating but a time-consuming and costly exercise. The A2A database seems to be rather underpublicized compared to other well-known British websites, and therefore its extensive catalogues remain a largely untapped resource.

The A2A site allows the visitor to browse online through records contained in the English archives. These records are held locally in the County Record Offices, Specialist Libraries and Institutions, plus Universities and Museums. Their exhaustive catalogues have been grouped together within the A2A database. Each catalogue describes what is held in that particular archive and you can search for specific names you are interested in.

Within a few movements and clicks of the mouse this database is easy to use, its useful and what's more, with the growing trend of "Pay-as-you-go sites", this one is refreshingly free. It can currently be found at [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk) but will be moving (around the time this issue of *Internet Genealogy* is published) to [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a).

How can this help with your family research? For instance, you find out that an ancestor comes from England and you know the county that they came from, say West Sussex. You may even have located them in a specific village or town in that county. The next step traditionally would be either to fly to Britain to search the West Sussex Record Office or hire a professional to do it for you. Both choices are rather costly.

A2A allows you to search all the records that are held in the West Sussex record office as if you had made a visit there yourself. So you virtually cross the Atlantic with a click of the mouse! If you find a document pertaining to your ancestors, you can order it inexpensively by e-mail. You don't even have to know where the ancestor came from to browse the site, just type in the name and away you go. Obviously this will bring up a large number of hits and "red herrings".

So what are the catalogues exactly? The archivists of each individual archive/record office in England have, over the years, drawn up catalogues of their records. Some archivists go into great detail for their catalogues; others are more limited, so it varies. The records start from as far back as the 11th century and as recently as the modern day.

The number of archives and institutions involved by December 2005 was 395. This is a database to revisit every so often as more archive catalogues are being included. Some of the catalogues are not fully completed and they are constantly being updated so bear this in mind. The records held by each County Archives and other institutions, vary enormously from laborer to lord, from the poor house to the manor house.

## SEARCHING

Searching the catalogue is simple. You can search the whole thing, but if you can be specific about an area it obviously cuts down the amount of time you waste.

Enter the site and click on "Search"; you will then have a standard search page appear. Using the "Keyword" search box, you can type in your name or places that you are interested in. It will bring up every record that includes the keywords in the 395 archives involved. Now this isn't the best case scenario you would hope for, so if you have the relevant extra information as to which archive you wish to search or which English region you are searching in this will then narrow down the field.

The Standard Search page has boxes for Keywords, Location of archives and English Region. Plus you can narrow the field further by specifying

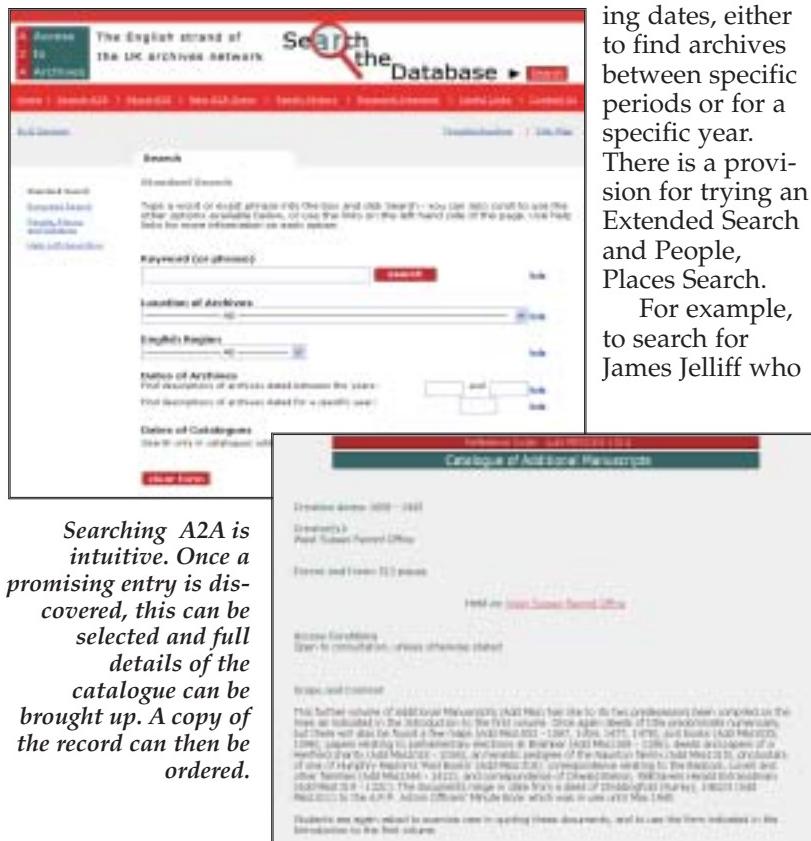


**The A2A database seems to be rather underpublicized compared to other well-known British websites and therefore its extensive catalogues remain a largely untapped resource.**



*The A2A database allows the user to search over 395 British library catalogues.*

## A2A: Access to Archives



The screenshot shows the A2A search interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with links like 'Access to Archives', 'Search the Database', 'Help', 'Logout', and 'Search Results'. The main area has sections for 'Branch' (West Sussex Record Office), 'Keywords (or phrases)', 'Keywords of Archives', 'English's Register', and 'Nature of Archives'. Below these are dropdown menus for 'Date of Catalogue' (1800-1900) and 'Search Type' (Advanced). The results page title is 'Catalogue of Additional Manuscripts'. It lists items such as 'Deed Polls 1800-1840', 'Deed Polls 1840-1860', and 'Deeds and Deeds 1860-1900'. Each item has a link to 'View Details'.

**Searching A2A is intuitive. Once a promising entry is discovered, this can be selected and full details of the catalogue can be brought up. A copy of the record can then be ordered.**

was a coachman from West Sussex.

Type the name into Keywords, then using the drop down menu scroll to West Sussex Record Office. Click on Search.

This brings up a catalog that James Jelliff is found in at the West Sussex Archives, and it links you to that catalogue, it happens to be the West Sussex Manuscripts Catalogue 3 and it says four hits (four mentions of the name James Jelliff in this catalogue).

There may be many hits so you have to click on each and then scroll and read the catalogue. The name you are looking for is always highlighted in yellow. It must be noted that you have to scroll through several pages so the yellow highlighting is a useful feature.

You are then in the brief description of the records. These particular records are to do with Deeds. You then note the Catalogue document number, which is highlighted in red.

Now, what is not obvious is that there is a further procedure to follow; this enables you to view more details of the documents so you can make an educated decision as to whether you want to order copies of it/them.

Looking at the computer screen, go to the blue lettering near the top and

ing dates, either to find archives between specific periods or for a specific year.

There is a provision for trying an Extended Search and People, Places Search.

For example, to search for James Jelliff who

click on Catalogue in Full. This brings you to the whole Manuscripts Catalogue number 3. Again you have to scroll down to your highlighted yellow name, but as you have made a note of the catalogue document number, you can follow through the number sequence easily to find your document.

In James Jelliff's case, it gives more details of the deeds and who else is involved. If you decide you would like a copy of this document, which would be a copy of the original, (nothing better to make your family history come alive), then go to the top of the page and click on the record office name, in this case West Sussex Record Office, and further click on the e-mail address and request for a copy from that archive. The Record Offices are generally quite quick in replying to your request. Always quote the document and catalogue numbers.

Most copies from the archives are inexpensive. The beauty of this website is that it takes you into the heart of the archives you want to search and you can then decide whether the documents will enhance your family history or not. You are not dealing with someone else making the choice for you.

The researcher may think, is this for me? Well nothing ventured nothing gained, the array of different records such as deed, wills, family papers, lawyers' records, Quarter Sessions (court), schools, apprenticeship indentures, legal papers, coroner inquests, to name but a few. The appeal of this site is that it covers the broad spectrum of the lives of all types of ancestors, not just the wealthy.

So what problems might you incur on this site? It is very "user friendly", but you must have cookies enabled on your browser otherwise you cannot use the database. This should not be a problem as when you leave the session the cookies are ended. Cookies are necessary for the database to work properly. If you don't have cookies enabled you may see "Invalid Access" appear on your screen.

Occasionally, as with other sites, you may get "timed out", signifying that it is busy, but this doesn't happen often.

There is a trouble-shooting help page on the site with useful advice.

## ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES

[www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html)

IF YOU ARE RESEARCHING in Illinois, check out the ever-expanding list of Illinois databases online — Vital Records (a pre-1900 marriage index and two databases that cover deaths up through 1950), Illinois Veterans Records and more.

There are four great features shared by all the databases:

1. You can choose to search the whole state or just one county.

For my husband's family from Chicago, I can search on "Cook County". Sometimes family members did move around and so if I don't find someone in Cook County, I extend my search to the whole state. Using this, I discovered a few family members who migrated just over the Cook County line to Lake County (Waukeegan).

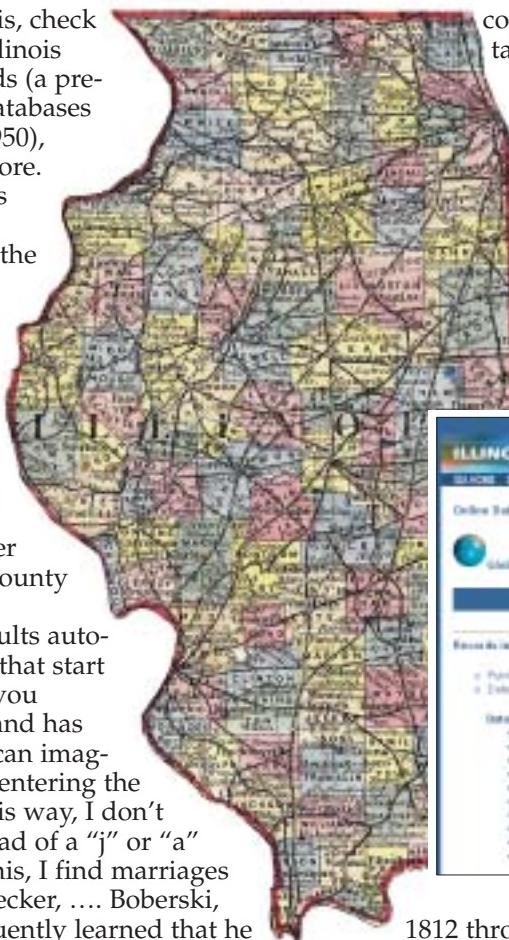
2. When you search, the results automatically include all the names that start with whatever group of letters you entered. For example, my husband has Bobejko as a family name. You can imagine the misspellings! Instead of entering the whole name, I enter "Bobe". This way, I don't have to worry about a "y" instead of a "j" or "a" instead of "o", etc. When I do this, I find marriages for Bobe, Bobek, Bobel, Bobendecker, .... Boberski, Robert. No Bobejko — I subsequently learned that he married after 1900! On a related note, there is no wildcard search function. This is somewhat handled by the feature we just discussed and the next feature.

3. There are no limits to how much of a name you enter. You can just put the first letter of the name or the whole name and everything in between. Though, if you just put the first initial, you will receive a very long list. The records are then displayed 500 records at a time.

4. The fourth great feature is that for each database, detailed information is given on how to request a photo-

copy. In case you have a question, contact information is provided.

Did your ancestor purchase public domain land? The database contains information about nearly 550,000 land sales from the 54,740 square miles of the public domain sold within Illinois. Besides these large statewide vital records databases, there are also several more specialized databases. There are databases that relate to Illinois Veterans and cover from the War of



**ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES**

SEARCH CONTACT DATABASES DEATH RECORDS DEAD HOLDINGS RESOURCE ACQUISITION DEPARTMENTS

Online Database

Global Database Search

ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES Online Database Transcription Policy

Records in the Illinois State Archives

- Public Domain Land Titles Database
- Illinois State Veterans and Emancipation Records

Databases of Illinois Veterans

- Illinois of Union Civil War Veterans
- Illinois of Illinois War of 1812 Veterans
- Illinois of Illinois Black Heroes War Veterans
- Illinois of Illinois Home and War Veterans
- Illinois of Illinois Civil War Veterans
- Illinois of Illinois Civil War Infantry Battalions in the U.S. Army
- Illinois of Illinois Civil War Infantry Battalions in the U.S. Navy
- Illinois of Illinois Civil War Infantry Battalions in the U.S. Cavalry
- Illinois of Illinois Civil War Infantry Battalions in the U.S. Marine Corps
- Illinois of Illinois Veterans and Illinois Honorary Veterans

Map: [www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/maps/illinois/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/maps/illinois/)

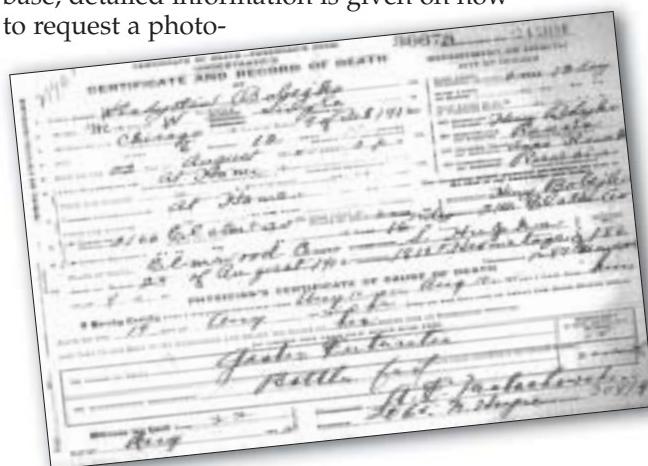
1812 through the Spanish-American War and include the 1929 Illinois Roll of Honor.

Maybe your ancestor is one of the approximately 3,400 names found in records involving the servitude and emancipation of Africans and, occasionally, Indians in the French and English eras of colonial Illinois (1722-1790) and African-Americans in the American period of Illinois (1790-1863).

If you are still looking for more information, there are links to Records held in the Illinois Regional Archives Depositories (IRAD). Some of these records are: Wayne County Coroner's Record Index (1888-1960), Livingston County Probate Case Files Index (1837-1958), Woodford County Almshouse Registers Index (1858-1957), Chicago Police Department Homicide Record (1870-1930) and more than 35 other resources!

Searching is easy. If you don't know which record(s) might apply to your ancestor, use the Global Search function. I found two limitations with this function. However, you have to put in precisely the name you are searching for and the results tell you which databases the name is found in and not what records are found. This means that you will still need to "search" the individual databases.

— Diane Richard



# Google Book Search

IF YOUR COMPANY'S mission statement is "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful", then including the information found in books is an integral part of your undertaking. The company in question is Google, which announced in October 2004 that it was going digitize millions of books and make the full text searchable under the name of Google Book Search, at [books.google.com](http://books.google.com), with the goal of "see[ing] a world where all books are online and searchable."

There is a fair bit of confusion surrounding this project as the issue of copyright has curtailed the original ambitious plans of Google and as of writing (January 2006), it's still in beta stage, meaning Google Book Search is still working out some of the details. With such a large undertaking, it's understandable that the project is moving at this rate.

The folks at Google acknowledge that the timeline for the project and how this will all be done are unknown at this time, but they are committed to making it happen.

The touchy issue of copyright is handled in the following way; only copyright-free books will be fully available, whereas other books, such as current best sellers will be shown only if permission has been granted. Google states this project is a book-finding tool, not a book-reading tool, so information on where to purchase the book online or where to borrow it is also provided. Google also makes it clear that they are

not making any money from this venture.

You're probably wondering what impact this project will have on genealogists and family historians? A huge one! Books are the backbone of genealogical and family history research as county histories, often copyright-free, rare and out of print due to their age, feature profiles of people that include information on their background and family members, while history books in general give a sense of the age and insight into the greater events that shaped the society of your ancestors. Books help you understand your ancestors' decision to move to the New World, what life was like and the events of the day that had a real impact on their lives. You can try Google Book Search using an ancestor's name, their spouse's name, a location or profession. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

Google Book Search works in the following way: you enter a search request using either [books.google.com](http://books.google.com) or [Google.com](http://Google.com); if a match is found, a link is added to the search results. Clicking on the link to the book title shows a "snippet view" which provides information about the book such as author, book title and publisher, along with some snippets so you can see your search term in context within the book. If the book is copyright free or the publisher has granted permission to Google Book Search, you can also see the book in "full book view".

Google Book Search users have to log in to access the project. The reason is because many of the books are still under copyright and that they have to limit the amount of a book that a user sees. To enforce these limits, Google Book Search makes some pages available only after users log in to an existing Google Account (such as a Gmail account), or create a new one.

If you prefer not to log in but still want to see a few pages, you can click the "view an unrestricted page" link.

For more information, visit [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com).

**Google Book Search sees a world where all books are available online and searchable.**



[www.mytrees.com](http://www.mytrees.com)

# Bring Your Family History Home

**M**yTrees.com™ has the family names you are looking to find.

Search more than a billion names in one easy click. Save countless hours of research by using the *My Trees Plus™* automated search.

The *MyTrees.com™ Family History Research Center* has been a trusted Internet genealogy resource since 1996.

- Pedigree Archives - 200 million Names - growing by 2 million names a month
- Free Surname Browse Database has more than 2 million unique names
- US and Canadian Extracted Birth, Death, and Marriage Records
- US, Canadian, and United Kingdom Partial Census Indexes
- Free Quarterly Genealogy How-To Newsletters
- Free Genealogy Forms
- Pioneer Database

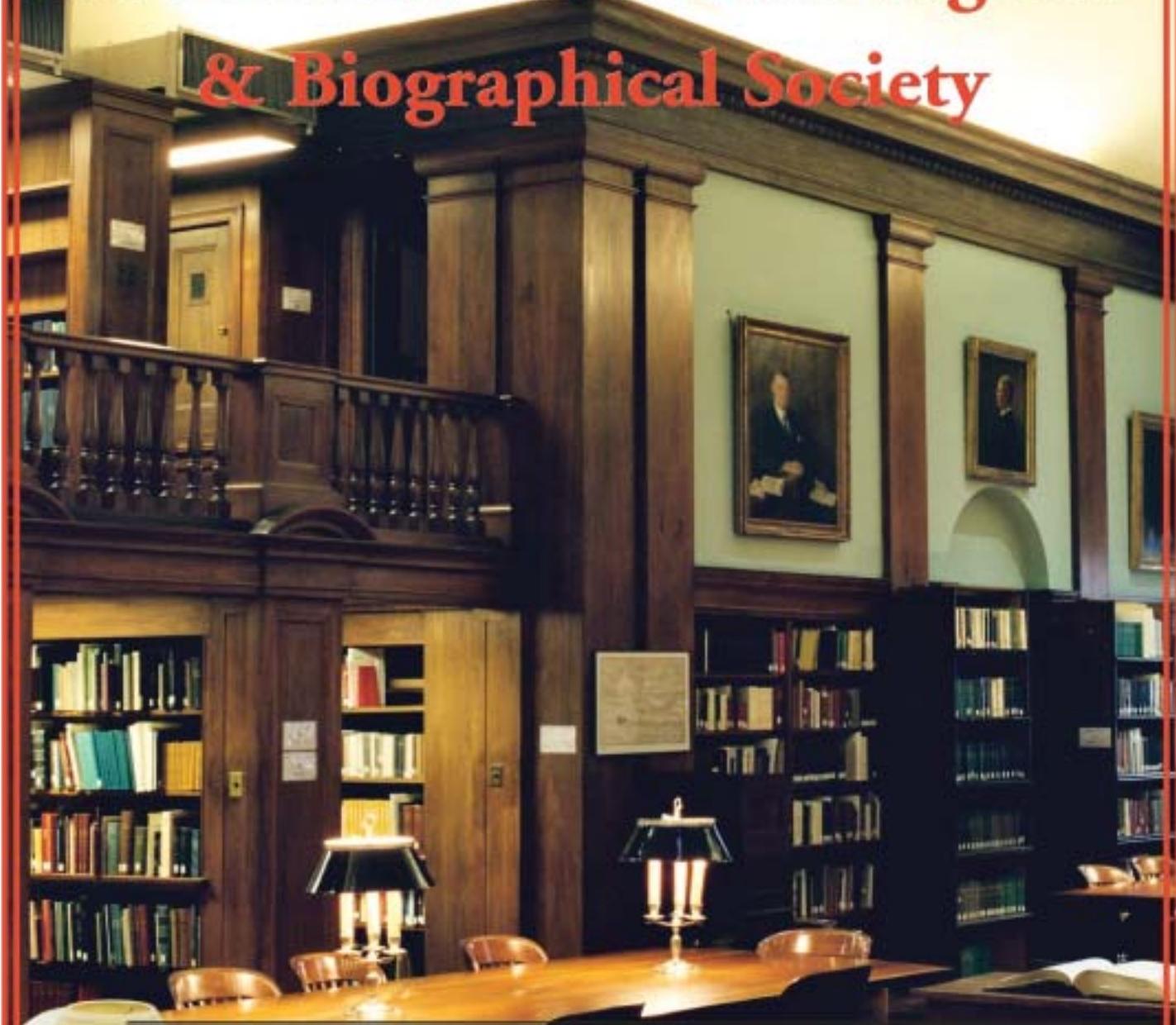
**MyTrees.com™**  
a Kindred Konnections® website



[www.mytrees.com](http://www.mytrees.com) a Kindred Konnections® website • [feedback@mytrees.com](mailto:feedback@mytrees.com)

Kindred Konnections, Inc. P.O. Box 1882 Orem, UT 84059

# Your New York Ancestors Live at The New York Genealogical & Biographical Society



## THE NYG&B SOCIETY

[www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org)

As a member, you will receive: Two quarterlies: *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* and *The New York Researcher*, Members-only website with home access to: HeritageQuest<sup>TM</sup> Online and *The New York Times 1851 to 2001* from ProQuest<sup>®</sup>. Discounts on publications, educational programs, research, photocopies by mail, and access to our extensive research library.

To join, visit our website online or check one of the membership categories listed below and return this form with your payment.

Annual Membership: Individual \$60  Joint (two persons at the same address) \$90  Life Membership: Individual \$1,500  Joint \$2,500

Name: Mr./ Mrs./ Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Method: Check  Mastercard  Visa

Make checks payable to The NYG&B Society, 122 East 58 Street, New York, NY 10022

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_